

The Allison Family Voice

The National Allison-Allanson Family Association

The descendants of Thomas Allanson/Allison, Lord of Christian Temple Manor (1639-1684)
A Gentleman of London, England and Charles County, Maryland

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The Allison Family Voice

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The National Allison-Allanson Family Association

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Full membership open to family members only. 2003-2004 dues \$20.00 per year for individuals or couples. Association year and all memberships begin and end in October. Membership includes subscription to *The Allison Family Voice*. New members joining after the beginning of the association year, regardless of joining date, receive all four issues for the particular year in which joining. Associate memberships with subscriptions to *The Allison Family Voice* are available to unrelated, interested parties at the same rate.

Members are invited to submit news, announcements, articles, and stories for publication. In order to offer the highest quality publication possible and to conform to space limitations, the association reserves the right to reject, or to edit materials submitted for publication for length, content, and subject matter.

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Cover photo

Reunion Sunday afternoon at the Allison-Deaver House

Photo by Joe Cwik

The historic Allison-Deaver House, our oldest documented family home in America, came to life on Sunday, October 17. Lively music, dancing, and storytelling from the front porch of the stately pioneer era home entertained a large crowd that formed on the lawn.

See the back cover of this issue for more photos of the special Sunday afternoon reunion event.

Thanks to member Joe Cwik, Gainesville, Georgia for providing our beautiful November cover photo that presents this reunion event so beautifully.

Change approved by members

New name for association

The name of our association adapted at the founding in 1996 was and is most appropriate, incorporating both the contemporary *Allison* and ancient *Allanson* spellings of our surname. But over time we came to realize that there was a slight awkwardness in the use of parentheses surrounding the *Allanson* portion of the title.

Members present at the 2004 business meeting on the evening of Saturday, October 16 voted unanimously to modify the title of the association for better flow of the wording. The use of a hyphen now links the two spellings of our surname, displaying the two spellings on a more equal footing.

Association president Michael Allison explains, "We are now spelling the association's name just the way we've always pronounced it. It makes a lot more sense this way, both in terms of pronunciation and in writing."

Please note the change to our name in all written references to the association.

Auxiliary Board

The auxiliary board for the new 2004-2005 association year has not yet been appointed. Members of the new auxiliary board will be appointed immediately following the November publishing project, and will be announced in the February issue of this publication.

From the mailbox



The association has received more mail in praise of the 2004 National Allison Family Reunion than for any other reunion — ever! And as full as the mailbox was, e-mail and phone calls outnumbered the mail this year. We sincerely thank you for the thanks!

We regret that due to space, we can share with the family only a few brief excerpts from the many cards and letters that were received, all in praise of this most special gathering of our family.

To the Editor and the family:

Imagine if you will...

An ancient clan gathers 'round the evening fire on a riverbank at dusk. As darkness falls, the river sings its endless song.

Suddenly the lively clan grows quiet as the leader of the clan and an envoy of the monarch make their way to the front of the huge crowd. The clan leader and the Queen's diplomat step up onto a wagon so that all can see and hear.

The clan stands to solemnly raise their cups of meade — the honey wine that is as old as time in the British Isle homeland of this ancient tribe.

The clan leader and the Queen's official representative lead the crowd in the toasts that end as "God Save the Queen!" echoes through the crowd and along the river bank.

In the swirling wood smoke, the ancestors of the clan could be seen raising a ghostly toast to Queen and country. The traditional toast wrapped the clan in their Britannic birthright. In that one moment, the past and the present of the clan become one.

The falling darkness, crackling fire, and the ancient meade draw the clan close, creating a frozen moment in time — a moment that will be remembered around the clan's campfires for generations to come.

It is of such moments that a family is forever bound to ancestors never met and to future descendants never to be seen.

It is of such moments that blood touches blood and recognizes a kinship formed at the misty birth of time when the family came to be.

It is of such moments that memories and traditions are reborn.

It is of such moments that a family is born and reborn for eternity.

No, this is not a scene from the times of the ancient English ancestors. It is a scene from October 15, 2004, on the banks of the Davidson River in Brevard, North Carolina.

In this most ancient of rituals the Allison clan honored their history and heritage with a tradition born of their British ancestry.

Among those gathered to celebrate their kinship were Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates OBE and wife Janice and Cherokee Indian Chief Leon Jones and wife Janice, and Allisons from across the continent. This was a gathering of the heart where the blood of kinship is thickest and most deeply felt. This is what a reunion is.

As Michael Allison, the Chief, and Her Majesty's Consul General poured the wine, they also paid homage to family, hearth, and home.

To stand on the banks of a river, near a crackling fire, in near darkness and raise a most traditional toast to our ancestry is an experience which this family should continue for as long as the family lasts. It is a tradition worthy of such a family as ours.

If we fail to cling to the traditions of our heritage, we will have little legacy to pass on to the future.

Michael Allison, Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates, and Janice Bates generously provided the wine for the toast to our blood and kinship. In so doing, they became the catalyst for a moment never to be forgotten.

Thank you Michael, Mike, and Janice for the gift of this memorable moment in the history of our family.

Becky Howell

Honea Path, South Carolina

I always enjoy the reunion, the beautiful drive up to Brevard with the leaves changing to beautiful colors, and the pretty views. I think this year's reunion was the best yet. Michael and everyone involved do such a good job to diversify the events to give everyone a choice of what they would like to do.

My brother Charles and I enjoyed Hawg Wild, the music, food, socialization, and the sampling of Michael's homemade meade made with Allison's Honey. It was all a lot of fun.

The film *Two Soldiers* reminded me of growing up as a child on a 500 acre playground of woods. I remember running around barefoot in the summer, fishing in the river and learning about nature.

I always leave the reunion with a better understanding of the history of our big family and

would like to thank Michael and others for the research.

As most everyone knows I make 100% of my living from the challenging occupation of beekeeping (honey production). The last 2 years have been tough with little or no sourwood production. I have had to diversify my beekeeping operation, by moving bees to middle Georgia to make a little extra honey off of cotton plants. I am hopeful that I will make a large crop next summer.

It makes me feel good to donate a little of my labor to the reunion and give you the opportunity to buy a good product with the Allison name on it

Lloyd Allison
Cleveland, Georgia

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the reunion....beautifully organized...wonderful people.

Klonie Kunzel
San Diego, California

I would like to thank everyone for the best reunion we ever had. The fellowship, music, and food were outstanding. Let's make 2005 even better!

I consider it my honor to be a part of such a great bunch of folks. Thanks so much for letting me be a part of it.

Sam Benson
Travelers Rest, South Carolina

Thank you for organizing such a diverse and full reunion program.

Roy Melton
Smyrna, Georgia

WOW! What a reunion! Starting with Friday night at Hawg Wild, fun was had by everybody. I hope we do that again. Thank the White County Allison's for bringing the "Allison's Honey beer" — so good!

The film was out of this world; Ben Allison was our host and what a good job! We enjoyed more music by the Bradley brothers. The event on Saturday was, I think, the best we have had (but then it gets better every year.)

Word's can't tell you how much I enjoyed Saturday night, of course I am a little prejudiced with Benny Allison [Benny Allison's Blue Creek Bluegrass Band] being from White County, Georgia.

I want to thank Michael Allison and the board for all the work that they put into OUR reunion, because it is OUR reunion. we go in, sit down, and enjoy, but they do all the work, and without the staff and their

spouse's it would not get put together.

Michael works all year planning for us, and worrying about if we will have the money for next October. So I think that we should send our donations in early this year, so we will be sure to have a grand reunion next year. See you there!

Barbara Westmoreland
Helen, Georgia

Just wanted to let you know that I had a great time at the reunion this year.

The food and fellowship were exceptional, and the entertainment was outstanding. All the bands were really great, but I was blown away by the quality of the Steep Canyon Rangers. I bought their newest CD and have been playing the grooves off it.

Many thanks to Michael and the officers for an unforgettable experience. Thanks again for a great time!

Barry Allison
Kingsport, Tennessee

George and I would like to thank all who worked so hard to bring about the 2004 National Allison Family Reunion. Michael Allison, the Board of Directors and so many others worked many hours prior to the reunion and then also at the reunion.

We especially enjoyed the new event on Friday night at Hawg Wild BBQ. The food was excellent, the weather was wonderful, and everyone was so congenial.

We learned that this is the last year that Michael Bates, Her Majesty's Consul General will be representing the Queen at the Allison Reunion. So it was very appropriate for Michael Bates to open the Friday night festivities with a toast to the Queen. And a special thanks to Michael Allison for providing wine for everyone for the toast. The evening was then topped off with the viewing of the wonderful movie "Two Soldiers".

We look forward to October 2005!

Delores Shultz
Gadsden, Alabama

Just wanted to let you know how much Ginger and I enjoyed attending the reunion. We attended all events and thought the planning and execution were outstanding. Our thanks to you and all of the Board of Directors, the Auxiliary Board and everyone else who participated in making it happen.

All of the music was good, and we thought the Steep Canyon Rangers were excellent.

I thought the whole weekend was wonderful and I am looking forward to next year. Thanks for all your efforts.

Bob Allison
Decatur, Georgia

I didn't think it was possible, but the reunions keep getting better and better each year!

Thanks for letting me display my bees wax candles with the Allison's Honey.

Barbara Allison
Cleveland, Georgia

Just a short note to our President Michael, the Board Members and the auxiliary Board members. Thanks again for a wonderful reunion. I especially enjoyed Friday night at Hawg Wild. I really enjoyed toasting the Queen and I think Michael Bates was touched by the way we did it. I felt a thrill pass through me as I wondered how many of my ancestors had stood on English soil and done the same thing.

Mona Brooks
Gadsden, AL

Dear Michael,

You know that I try to keep my opinions out of the "Voice", and save room for our members, but this time, it's just impossible!

I have to take just a moment, and let you, and the others, know what I thought of the 2004 Allison Family Reunion. It was wonderful, stupendous, fabulous, unsurpassed! Every change that we made was a good one.

Dinner on the river was a great replacement for the dessert party (although I've gotten some really great recipes from those dessert parties!).

The movie was such fun! We were inside the warm theater, seated, and entertained while the cold wind blew down the mountain. We even had popcorn! Our wonderful new cousin Ben's movie was such a delight.

The Bates, as usual, were gracious and friendly; such an asset to our family. I'm so glad we "adopted them".

The many bands and vocalists added a lively, toe-tapping rhythm to the whole weekend.

Being welcomed by the Chief was SO appropriate! No politician could have topped, or even equaled it.

The applause for our "Allison Airman" made his mom's heart swell to near bursting!

"Taps", played by our new Board Member, George Allison, and his son put the "icing on the cake" for the main reunion event.

Saturday night served as a great climax for the day. The food was delicious. The decorations, beautiful, as always. The dancing, entertaining.

Sunday at the Allison-Deavor House was a relaxing end to a marvelous, memorable weekend.

The three-day event was spectacular! I must admit, however, that the most touchingly appropriate part of the entire weekend was the toast by Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates on Friday night. Mike's eloquence gave me chills. I could almost feel the ties connecting the modern-day Allisons of the United States with our ancestors of England of long ago.

I hope that next year, and in future years, the Board will once again vote to include a toast to the Queen in our Friday night opening event.

Thank you, once again, for spearheading the massive, year-long campaign that culminates each year in the Allison Family Reunion.

Diane Guest
Tucker, Georgia

Thank you for a great weekend!

Ann Propst
Brevard, North Carolina

Thank you for your hard work in putting together the 2004 National Allison Family Reunion!

Joe & Barbara Cwik
Gainesville, Georgia

Just want to thank everyone who did all the work at the reunion.

Doyle & Margie Allison
Spartanburg, South Carolina

I so enjoyed the reunion. I want to let you know how much we appreciate all your hard work and devotion to the association. We feel congratulations are in order. The great success of the event would never have happened without your dedication.

Keep up the good work! We appreciate you!

Tom & Cookie Michael
Virginia Beach, Virginia

We would publicly like to express our thanks to Hawg Wild for sponsoring such a wonderful evening to open our reunion. While the dessert party and workshop in past reunions were nice, the congenial, warm (figuratively speaking of course), relaxed and fun atmosphere at the Friday night gathering was outstanding. The fire was toasty, the food was

excellent, the service friendly, and we didn't have to do anything but have a good time.

And have a good time we did! Everywhere I looked, people were smiling, laughing and yes, shivering a bit in the cold, but it was an invigorating opening to the reunion.

Special thanks also to Michael Bates, Her Majesty's Consul General, for opening it with a toast, and to Michael Allison for bringing enough wine for the toast. And also for that wonderful meade to taste. (hint: bring a little more next year, Michael)

For those of you who weren't there, you missed a wonderful evening. Hopefully, (another hint, Michael and Hawg Wild) you'll be able to enjoy it next year.

Phyllis and Barry Miller
Millersville, Maryland

The reunion was so special. You've done it again!
How nice it was to meet Cousin Ben.

Frances Eiland
Gadsden, Alabama

To my Allison family:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for each member who came on Friday afternoon to help set up the college. If not for your willingness to help, we would have been at the college for much, much longer. This year set-up went smoother and quicker, thanks to all of you.

Thanks to the members who came on Friday evening. The barbeque dinner was a hit because of all of you. I enjoyed talking with each of you and hearing your praises for the event.

My thanks for Michael Bates for this toast to the Allison family on Friday evening. And my thanks to Michael Allison for his toast to the Queen. It was a very nice gesture to have Michael Bates offer the toast since this will be his last year with us.

My thanks to Michael Allison for 12 months of work on the reunion. All our officers work hard, but not like Michael does. See you in October of 2005!

Dottie Allison, Vice-President
Travelers Rest, South Carolina

Without a doubt, the 2004 National Allison Family Reunion topped everything we've done in the past. And that's not an easy task to accomplish.

Never have I seen such a lively bunch of cousins have so much fun together. From Friday evening until Sunday afternoon, the busy weekend entertained and educated.

My sincere thanks to Michael and Janice Bates for generously bringing the wines and champagne for Friday evening, and to Michael Allison for donating the wine and the very special homemade English meade so that everyone who wished to participate could raise a glass in the toast. Obviously, most everyone in the crowd did!

I loved the toast! How perfectly appropriate that we add this touch of English tradition to our English-American family gathering. And it was all done with the very proper English touch. I hope everyone knows, understands, and appreciates how special that moment was.

Michael's four bottles of homemade meade (fermented Allison's Honey) were gone in a flash on Friday evening, even though he was pouring only thimble sized samples in effort to give as many as possible a chance to taste our English heritage. The Allisons were all begging for more, long after the last bottle was empty. For sure, we'll need much more meade next year.

All of our board of directors and many of our auxiliary board members deserve a mountain of praise heaped on them. I've never seen people work so hard and so efficiently in my life. We've become a well oiled and organized machine, accomplishing amazing things.

I have to say a special word of thanks to board members Dottie Allison and Diane Guest who worked non-stop over the weekend selling raffle tickets on all three days. Those of you who get to sit down and watch the fun have no idea how tiring it is to stand through three days of reunion events.

I also want to say a special thanks to Wilson and Ann Kent who always take on more than their fair share of the workload. Each year they bring a trailer to Brevard, loaded with supplies needed to put on the event. We couldn't put on the reunion without the two of them!

A big round of thanks to Bill and Virginia Allison and their team that did a great job with the auction and door prizes. For once we have a perfect record of all donated items, and all high bidders at the auction. Bravo! And of course thanks to everyone who donated all those items.

And to the entire board of directors, and the auxiliary board members who worked right alongside the board the entire weekend, and the many volunteers from the family who worked so hard...thanks! We had fabulous workers this year.

Nina L. Allison
Sterrett, Alabama



Michael Allison
Association President

The old ghosts walked amongst us

I see ghosts. And I'm not alone. More than a few of you do, too.

Old ghosts surrounded us on the evening of Friday, October 15th. They came from more centuries of our past than we can count or even fathom.

The ghosts of the ancestors stood silently observing, nodding approval, as their wandering 21st century children discovered a sense of *home* on the most profound level yet. We found it by honoring the ancient rituals of our forebears.

We stood together and raised a cup while gathered around a fire in that magical, deeply shadowed moment between day and night. And in doing so, we linked ourselves to our past like never before.

Tens of thousands of old ghosts raised a cup of cheer with their children in that magical moment.

For as long as we've existed, that simple act has been a part of us. Sadly, some of us, but certainly not all, have lost many of our ancient traditions and rituals as we've evolved in the American melting pot. And to be frank, we've lost a bit of civility in the process.

One only has to read the letters to the editor in this issue to see just how many of us quickly sensed the profound nature of that ritual we shared.

No reunion event and no element of any specific event have made such an impact on so many people. Quite a few of us were seeing the big picture in living color that crisp fall evening on a torch lit riverbank.

Many saw the past like never before. Many of you looked the past in the eye and understood the link to our past on a new and amazingly profound level.

No classroom, no textbook can teach history on that level.

In that moment we transcended the cognitive and

passed into the sensory.

One of the things that made this simple toast honoring our family so special was the man who offered the toast — a quite official representative of the Queen of our ancestral homeland. How many American families ever experience such a moment?

What made the experience even more profound was the response that came from the crowd. Even the old ghosts had goose bumps when "God save the Queen!" echoed back from the crowd.

One could easily get the impression that we left London just yesterday— instead of 346 years ago!

In that one simple act, we truly set in a permanent bond the human superglue that links us together. And only in our

ancient English past, honored in that toast, do we find the tie that binds us together as an American family today.

A piece of bread, A communal cup of wine

Ritualistically raising a cup of cheer in honor or respect is certainly not peculiar to our British ancestors. Toasting is as old as civilization itself, and its origins are found in numerous ancient cultures.

The quite civilized Greeks left behind the oldest records of the ritual, but it was the Romans who took it all a step farther.

Understandably, since our family once lived under Roman rule when England was part of the Roman Empire, it's only natural that we adapted many Roman customs that have survived quite well across the centuries.

The Romans first offered a raised cup in tribute to

the gods. Later they bestowed that honor upon mortals, leading to our contemporary tradition. But it was an interesting Roman twist to the ritual drink of wine that led to the English name we use today for this tradition that is practiced throughout the world.

In Roman times, wine was oftentimes harsh and acidic, and apparently sometimes quite sour. In effort to mellow the strong taste and make the drink more palatable, the Romans placed a piece of burnt bread in their cup, in attempt to absorb some of the acidic bite.

History tells us that it was our own English ancestors who adopted the Roman practice and turned it into a cherished social ritual.

Our Olde English forebears placed a piece of toasted bread in the bottom of the communal wine cup that was passed among those present. The host naturally drank last from the communal cup, after all the guests had taken a drink, but was rewarded with the honor of eating the wine-soaked, toasted bread.

Later the practice of individual cups came into vogue, but the name "toast" stuck, and is still with us today.

Although the communal cup lost out to the individual, personal cup, apparently our ancestors felt a sense of loss of connection to others with that more impersonal approach.

One theory is that we clink our glasses together in the toast to achieve that connectedness — that spiritual bond — that we formerly found from ritualistically drinking from the communal cup.

Clinking the cups (that later became glasses) was also a powerful talisman against evil. According to our English ancestors, all evil spirits, including Lucifer himself, despise the sound of ringing bells — even the clink of a metal cup — and will take flight to escape the maddening sound.

All present in the ritual toast were afforded protection from evil by the ring of the clinking cups.

Meade...the nectar of our past

I was astonished how well the Allison's took to a sample of my homemade English meade (or *mead* if you prefer a more contemporary spelling).

Four bottles were gone in a flash (including one large jug) and dozens of cousins were left begging for just one more taste, even though I was doling it out

on Friday evening in rather skimpy, sip-sized tastes.

Meade is, simply put, nothing more than honey wine. In its purest form, meade is a simple concoction of honey mixed with water and then allowed to take a natural course and ferment.

Even though pure honey will keep well for eons without souring, once water comes into play, it naturally ferments, resulting in natural wine.

The meade sampled at the Allison reunion was, if I do say so myself, rather special. It was "Allison's Honey" meade — made by Lloyd Allison's bees in White County, Georgia.

Lloyd generously gave me three cases of honey last summer to experiment with meade-making in hopes of mastering the process sufficient to produce a quantity of this tasty ancient heritage drink.

All of you guinea pigs who sampled the results were tasting the very first batch — my first effort at reviving this almost lost piece of our folk culture.

I think a meade primer is in order since this is no doubt a rediscovered element of our heritage that is unknown to many of us.

Meade is as old as time itself. It was a common beverage in most of the

world's ancient cultures, thanks to Mother Nature's magic.

Many historical sources claim that meade is the oldest recorded fermented beverage made by man, and a widely popular one at that. There is excellent evidence that the Jews, Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Ethiopians, Scandinavians, Assyrian, Incas and Aztec regularly drank meade, both in festivals and as a ritualistic religious drink.

The Babylonians served it as the official drink at all weddings. History tells us that a Babylonian bride's parents were required to keep the newlyweds well supplied with meade for a lunar month following the wedding.

Our ancient British Isle ancestors appear to have also embraced the Babylonian custom keeping early English newlyweds happy for a full lunar month with plenty of honey wine during the "honeymoon" period.

In ancient times in our English homeland, meade was indeed the drink of choice. The simple beverage held its favored position in England until the 18th century, when sugar became common thanks to trade

with New World colonies producing massive quantities of the new sweetener that would eventually replace honey.

As popularity rose and prices fell, sugar became the sweetener of choice. Meade and other drinks made with honey faded from popularity.

Meade-making came to America with us, and was carried into the wilds of America. In the high mountains of western North Carolina, the folk-art of meade-making has held on for a longer time, sufficient for it to survive on a limited scale to the present.

Our dear family friend and adopted Allison cousin Vera Stinson of the Brevard, North Carolina area, participant in the Sunday event at the Allison-Deaver House, has been making meade since she was young and learning the ways of the kitchen from her own mother. She's now 95.

Vera still makes a large batch of meade each year, just as countless generations of her Welsh and English ancestors have done for countless centuries before her.

Interestingly, Vera uses a most archaic Elizabethan English term for her meade that she never fails to bring me as a gift at reunion time, always in the obligatory Mason jar (but that's getting into another story of another favored homemade beverage the mountain folks like and still make when they can get away it).

Vera often calls her meade *thiglin*, a linguistic fossil remnant of the ancient English word *metheglin*, an almost forgotten word for meade, most often used in reference to spiced meade.

Many of the old-timers in the mountains of North Carolina use the words *meade* and *metheglin* synonymously, but technically, at least in England, there was a distinct difference.

Our British ancestors sometimes had trouble in mead-making since they used a natural fermentation process that allowed wild yeasts to do the work. And of course there were many other variables that could spoil a batch of meade, resulting in a slightly or profoundly bad tasting concoction. Heavy spices could mask the foul taste, saving the batch of meade.

Metheglin became the most common terms for this spiced meade, oftentimes laced with herbs such as rosemary or basil — savory herbs associated today with the cooking pot instead of use with honey.

Even more interesting is the fact that Vera sometimes refers to her brew as “the King’s Meade”, even though it’s been many a moon since her family made meade under the reign of any king.

Amazing how old ways die slowly in the isolated coves and valleys sheltered by the high mountains of western North Carolina where the past is never too far away. It’s all fading fast, but one can still hear remnants of now archaic Elizabethan English in those mountains.

Honoring our ancestors, keeping our traditions alive

Look’s like I’ve started something with this meade business. I’ve already had more than two dozen requests for more meade for next year. Half a dozen have asked for the recipe.

If I do say so myself, this first effort was surprisingly good. It was a sweeter meade with a deep rich golden glow, and if you’ll indulge me a little bragging, a wonderfully rich body that compares to a good dessert wine.

To be honest, I had expected a foul vinegar instead of a tasty beverage from this first venture. I was pleasantly surprised, and even encouraged.

On Friday evening at Hawg Wild, word must’ve passed through the crowd rather quickly. A line of cousins rapidly formed, all asking for a taste of meade as soon as the bottles came out on the table along with all the other wines and champagne Michael and Janice Bates and I had brought for the reunion toast.

Sure, many of you appreciated the taste of the meade, and I’m honored you did. But I know for a fact that you understood and appreciated even more the link to your ancestors found in the nectar-like, jewel-toned amber liquid.

That sip of meade was just one more rather personal encounter with our past that we always experience in so many ways at the National Allison Family Reunion, and in the pages of this publication.

Thanks to the busy bees at the Allison Honey Farm in Cleveland, Georgia, and the generosity of beekeeper Lloyd Allison, I have a good supply of honey just waiting for the free time to get started on a new vintage of Allison family heritage. I’ll be starting on that project as soon as this issue is printed and mailed. Hopes are for an even better vintage for this second attempt.



Cousin Cuisine

Good things to eat from our cousins' kitchens

Cold weather comfort food from northeast Georgia cousin



Barbara Cwik at home in her comfortable Gainesville, Georgia kitchen. Photo by Joe Cwik

Long-term, dedicated association member Barbara Cwik of Gainesville, Georgia is a descendant of Thomas Allison of Maryland, the grandson of the immigrants, Thomas and Mary, Lord and Lady of Christian Temple Manor.

Barbara descends from Thomas and Barbary's son Richard who married Sarah Cheshire. Richard and wife Sarah Cheshire followed suite in the great Allison exodus from Maryland in the years during and just after the American Revolution.

Of the 5 sons of Thomas and Barbary Burch, only Richard Allison and brother Benjamin Allison would not live out their lives in the old Maryland home. Benjamin went to North Carolina, and Richard to Bullitt County, Kentucky.

Richard's daughter, Eleanor, married Robert Ricketts of Maryland, of a strongly allied family.

Instead of following her parents and all her siblings on to Kentucky, Eleanor and Robert followed Uncle Benjamin and a host of her first cousins to the high mountains of western North Carolina.

They settled in a raw mountain wilderness in the late afternoon shadow of Mt. Mitchell, highest peak in eastern America. Along with Eleanor's Uncle Benjamin and his many children, came her uncle John Allison's son Hezekiah Allison, and his son Joshua. There in the new mountain home a huge colony of transplanted Maryland Allisons was formed.

Barbara's own branch of the Ricketts-Allison family eventually found its way into nearby northeast Georgia, in a area where many of the Allison cousins settled and are still found today.

Barbara and husband Joe Cwik are devoted regulars at the National Allison Family Reunion. With the exception of 2003 when they were in Washington, they've not missed an edition of the reunion since rediscovering the greater family.

Cousin Barbara's Chicken Casserole

1 cooked chicken (3-4 lbs)

De-bone and place in casserole dish

Mix: 1 can cream of chicken soup

1 can cream of celery soup

1 can milk

Pour over chicken

Mix: 1 large pkg Pepperidge Farm dressing mix.

1 stick melted oleo

1¼ cup chicken broth.

Put mixture on top of casserole.

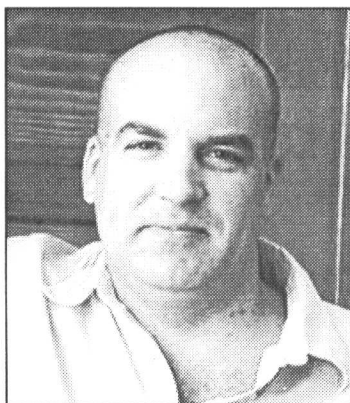
Bake at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes or until golden brown.

Make gravy with remaining broth to serve with chicken.

Great comfort food. Serves 8-12 hungry kinfolks.

2004-2005 board of directors

George Allison,
Chester, West Virginia,
newly elected member of
the board of directors



Due to two year terms of office, all board positions except for one do not come up for election again until October of 2005. The slot that came open in 2004 was filled at the annual business meeting on Saturday, October 16.

Please welcome to the board of directors George Allison of Chester, Hancock County, West Virginia. Prior to the election, George was completing a one year appointed position on the auxiliary board.

George comes to us through the Charles and Barbara Moore Allison line of Maryland. Charles was the son of Thomas and Barbary Burch Allison, and the great-grandson of the immigrants Thomas and Mary, Lord and Lady of Christian Temple Manor.

Charles Allison died in Maryland, but much of his family eventually settled in Brooke County, Virginia — the portion of Virginia that was later restructured as Hancock County, West Virginia.

George Allison is a dedicated Allison family historian and a leader of the family in Hancock County, West Virginia where a huge Allison family population resides, both inside the county and in the tri-state area composed of the surrounding counties of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

George recently revived the Allison family reunion in Hancock County, West Virginia, and works continuously to rediscover both the history of that line of the family and the living descendants.

A list of all current board members with contact information is published on page one of each issue of *The Voice*.

In effort to allow the members to get to know the board better, the February issue of this publication will present the individual members of the entire board with photos of each, along with a family history bio detailing ancestry and descent within the greater family.

2005 NATIONAL ALLISON FAMILY REUNION

Reunion 2005 October 15



**Mark your Calendars for
the week-end of
October 15 and make
plans now to attend!**

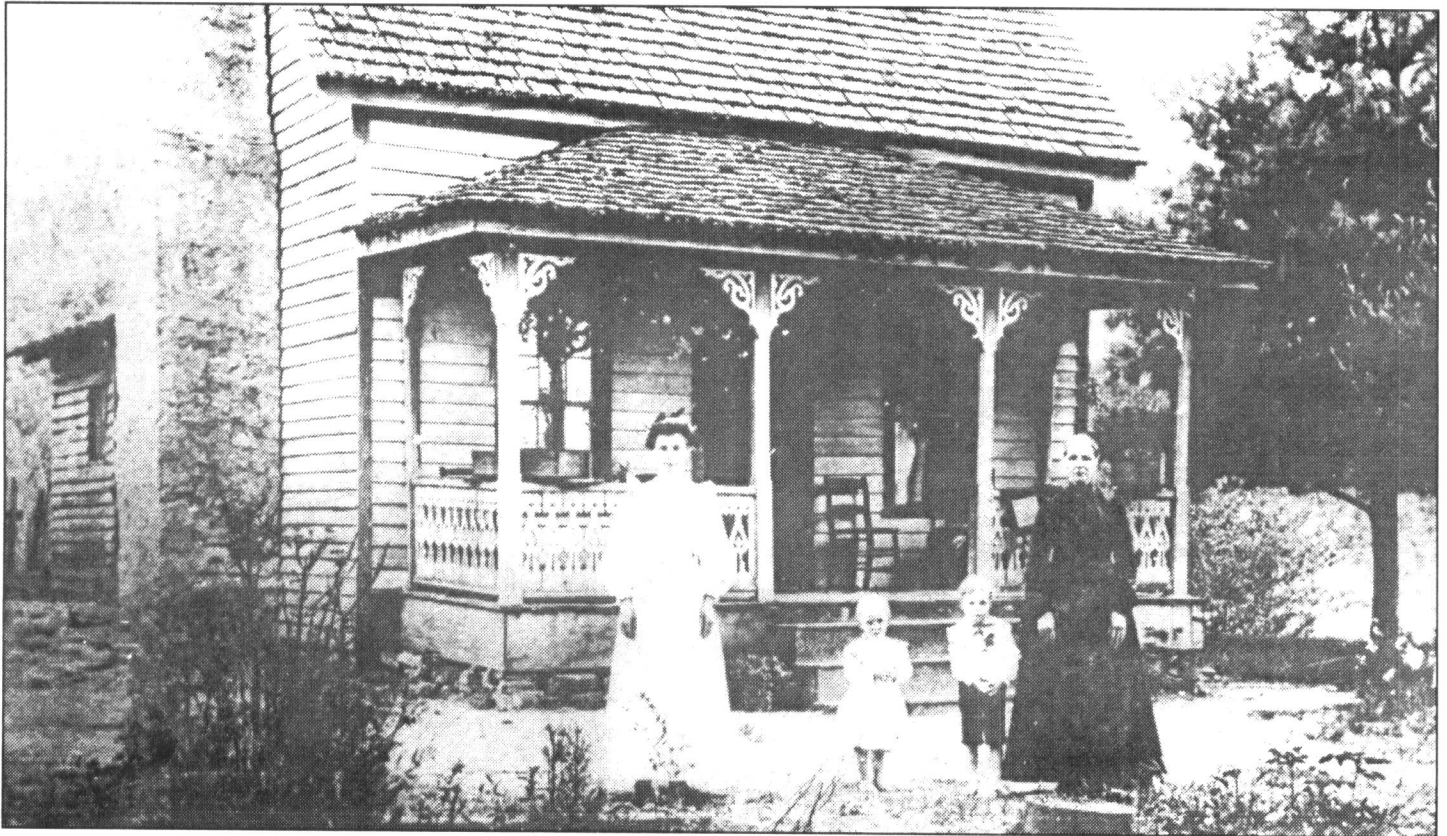
**Something very, very
special is already in the
works for 2005 — a
moment that will go
down in Allison history
and bring together the
single largest crowd of
Allisons ever! You'll
want your entire family
to participate in this
special moment and be
a part of history.**

*Watch for the February issue
of The Voice for exciting
announcements, plus all your
2005 reunion hotel
reservation information so
you can get started on your
family's plans for 2005*

Photo gallery

Images from the past

North Carolina mountain home-sweet-home



The John B. Allison, Jr. family home in southern Transylvania County, North Carolina, just to the south of Brevard on Williamson's Creek. Pictured in front of the house are wife Mary Jane Patton Allison, two of the couples children, and John's mother-in-law.

Photo courtesy Michael Allison

John b. Allison, Jr. was born near Brevard, North Carolina in 1840 to John Allison, Sr. (1795-1898) who married Elizabeth Allison, the daughter of Francis Posey Allison (1778-1867) of Maryland and North Carolina and his second wife, Fannie Hollingsworth (according to surviving evidence).

Francis Posey Allison was the son of Burch Allison, and the grandson of Benjamin Allison, Sr.

The ancestry of John Allison, Sr. has never been firmly proved, but the earliest family history, recorded by his niece Virginia Allison Sheip who lived nearby, states that John and Elizabeth Allison were cousins. That history fails to explain the kinship, and research thus far has failed to reveal the specific kinship of the two.

There appears a strong possibility that John (Sr.) was the brother of Benjamin Allison who lived nearby and who built the Allison-Deaver House in circa 1816, today the oldest documented surviving Allison family home in America.

Through a process of elimination and a review of all surviving evidence, a strong case has been built that Benjamin Allison was the son of Posey Allison of Maryland and North Carolina, the son of Benjamin Allison, Sr. of Maryland and North Carolina who was the son of Thomas and Barbary Burch Allison of Maryland.

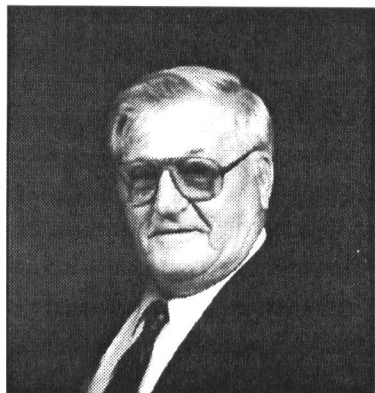
The beautiful little home built by John B. Allison, Jr. was still standing in the early 1900's, but was lost in a fire about 75 years ago.

Mileposts

Moments in the lives of our members

In loving memory

Founding member Thomas R. George, Sr., 81, of Waterloo, South Carolina passed away on September 3, 2004 after a long illness. Tom was present at the moment when the National Allison-Allanson family Association was founded on October 19, 1996. He was also present for the earlier gathering of the family in May of that year that led to the formation of the association.



Founding association member Thomas Ralph George, Sr. (1922-2004), Waterloo, South Carolina

Tom was a devoted member of the association who never missed a reunion. He became an Allison cousin by marriage to Mildred Allison, the daughter of David Lloyd Allison who was born in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina but moved to South Carolina later in life.

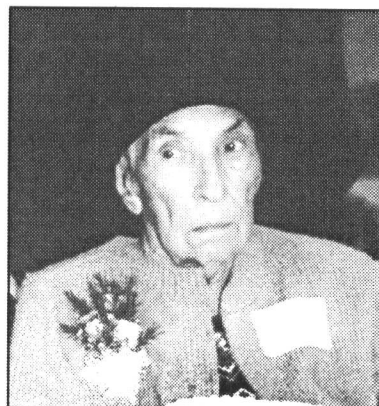
Mildred is a descendant of Thomas Allison, Sr. (grandson of Thomas and Barbary Burch Allison of Maryland) who married Cassandra Bird. Thomas and his father Benjamin left Maryland to resettle in the mountains of North Carolina at the site of today's town of Old Fort in McDowell County.

Thomas and Cassandra's son Thomas Allison, Jr., Mildred's great-great-grandfather, left McDowell County and resettled at Mills River in Henderson County, north of Brevard. Among his large family was son Ephraim, Mildred's great-grandfather.

Mildred's grandfather Bascome Allison moved first to Transylvania County for many years before finally settling in South Carolina.

In addition to Mildred, Tom is survived by daughters Robbie Dunnigan and Susan Morris, and son Thomas, Jr.

In loving memory



Founding association member Flora Allison Pickelsimer (1908-2004), Little River (near Brevard), North Carolina, pictured at the 2003 National Allison Reunion with the corsage she was presented as the oldest lady present

Founding association member Flora Marion Allison Pickelsimer, 95, of Little River, North Carolina passed away on Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at her home.

Flora was the daughter of the late Madison Hugh Lee Allison and Florida Shipman Allison. Hugh Lee Allison was the son of Thomas J. Allison, one of the sons of John Allison and Elizabeth Allison Allison, the daughter of Francis Posey Allison (1778-1867) of Maryland and North Carolina. According to surviving records, Francis was the son of Burch Allison and the grandson of Benjamin Allison, Sr. of Maryland and North Carolina. Benjamin was the son of Thomas Allison and Barbary Burch of Maryland.

In addition to being a founding member, Flora was present the first re-assembly of the family in May of 1996 that led to the founding of the association later in October of that year.

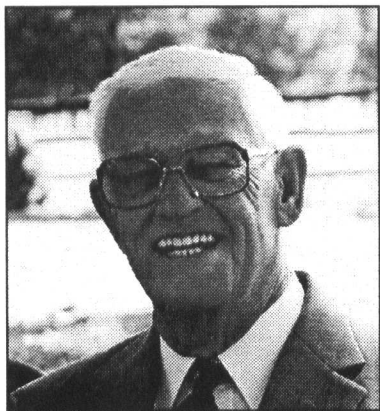
Flora was a devoted member of the association who generously supported the reunion. In October of 2000, just before reunion time, she suffered a devastating stroke that prevented her from attending reunions until her last in 2003. That year she was the oldest lady present, and was honored with a beautiful yellow rose corsage.

Flora was preceded in death by husband Newton Wilson Pickelsimer, who died in 1985. Their son, Larry Wilson Pickelsimer, died in 1961. Also preceding her in death were her brothers, Carl Allison and Pat Allison; and sisters, Irene Moore,

Bessie Moore, Ellen Orr and Dorothy Batson, another founding member of the association.

Flora is survived by daughters Jean Young of Pisgah Forest and Nancy Elkins;-- granddaughter, Tabitha Young; grandsons Kyle Young, Brent Elkins, and Zachary Elkins, plus numerous great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

In loving memory



Member James Burns Pruett (1927-2004), Thomas, Georgia

Long-standing member James Burns Pruett, 76, of Thomas, Georgia passed away on Saturday, September 11. Burns had been a member of the association since 1997 and had planned to attend the 2004 National Allison Family Reunion.

Burns became an Allison cousin by marriage to Regina Allison Pruett of the White County, Georgia family line. Regina's father was Benjamin Patrick Allison of White County.

Regina's great-great-great-grandfather was Benjamin Allison, Jr., the grandson of Thomas and Barbary Burch Allison of Maryland, who left Maryland to resettle at the site of today's town of Old Fort in McDowell County, North Carolina.

In 1824 Benjamin Allison, Jr. and his large family left North Carolina en masse for the area of Habersham County, Georgia that is today White County, near the town of Cleveland.

Burns was a devoted lover of history. Regina relays that Burns cherished *The Voice*, and dearly loved when a new issue of *The Voice* arrived. He would spend hours reading and studying the publication and had an excellent understanding of the past of the family into which he married.

In addition to Regina, Burns is survived by two sons, Jim Pruett of Thomaston, Georgia and John Pruett of The Rock, Georgia; and daughter Allison Purser of Brunswick, Georgia. All three of his children are members of the association. He is also survived by six grandchildren.

Remember...lest we forget



2004 National Allison Family Reunion memorial wreath, placed following the reunion at nearby Mills River Methodist Church cemetery at the Allison plot, on the grave of Isaac Allison, son of Thomas Allison, Jr., grandson of Benjamin Allison, Sr. of Maryland and North Carolina. Each year after the reunion, the memorial wreath is placed on an Allison family member's grave.

Photo by Alma Lambert

Mileposts column

Members are invited to submit news of our members and their immediate families for publication in the Mileposts column, such as births, deaths, marriages, or other very special life experiences.

Announcements must be submitted to the association by no later than mid-month of the month prior to the desired publication month (publishing months February, May, August, and November). Photos should be included if possible.

Brevard College guest house Reunion lodging option for a large family group

The association is offering a very economical lodging option on the Brevard College campus at the Wesley House, a campus guest house. It's a perfect reunion arrangement for a large family, or for a group of family members who would enjoy staying together under one roof at the reunion, and who are willing to "rough it" slightly.

Guests using the house, located behind the reunion site at Myers Hall, must bring their own linens (sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, etc). And the decor is rather spartan. To protect the house and its furnishings, **occupancy is now limited by Brevard College policy to 20 persons.**

Those small inconveniences are, for many, quickly outweighed by the fact that the nightly cost of the entire house is half of standard hotel lodging for one hotel room in that area during reunion time.

Since many association members have asked about using the house, the association is establishing a fair and square system through which the house will be let out to individuals. The National Allison-Allanson Family Association reserves the house as part of reserving facilities on the campus for the reunion.

Anyone wanting to use the house must first pay a nightly fee to Brevard College, and then be willing to make a donation to the reunion, paid *in advance* of the reunion when the money is so desperately needed. Also, Brevard College is planning to begin requiring a cleaning and security deposit on the house, in addition to the small nightly fee paid by the individuals using the house.

Anyone using the house must agree to use the house as it is, without rearranging the furniture or moving furniture between the rooms, causing Brevard College staff needless work to restore the house before the next guests arrive.

To use the house, the family must be a "member household" of the National Allison-Allanson Family Association, with the individual reserving the house a member of the association in good standing, with current memberships renewed by October 1 of that year. Use of the house by non-members of the association will not be considered.

Use of the house will be awarded to individuals by a fair auction system, awarded on a bid of how much each individual or family is willing to donate

to the association as a fund-raiser for the reunion. The highest bidder gets the house.

The donation must be paid by an established date *in advance* of the reunion when funds are desperately needed for reunion preparations.

Since this lodging arrangement saves the user quite a bit of money for lodging a large family, the donation to use the house is strictly for lodging arrangements, and should not be considered as the sole donation to the reunion for any family.

Watch the February Voice for details on how to bid for the house. In that issue, we'll announce specifics, including full criteria used in selecting the auction winner, the new nightly usage fees for 2005, the date by which the donation must be paid, etc.

In the mean time, if interested in using the house for your family or group of family members, please contact association president Michael Allison at (205) 672-2913. E-mail: dma12@bellsouth.net.

Membership drive

Enclosed with this issue is a membership form for the National Allison-Allanson Family Association, being mailed to ALL current association members. Please put this form to good use by passing it on to another family member who has yet to join us on this rich journey!

Please, due to costs for printing and mailing, don't just toss the form aside. Do your part to keep our rediscovered family growing and thriving.

2005 REUNION HOTELS

A full list of reunion hotels and special rates with reservation information is coming in your February issue of The Voice. Watch for this information and be prepared to quickly reserve while the best rooms are available at the best rates. Reserve early and get the room you want at the rate you want!

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The honor role of generous reunion angels who made our family's most special day possible

The National Allison Family Reunion is a major undertaking, made possible each year by individual family members who dig deeply into their own pockets to make it happen.

Donations come to us in many forms — in checks both small and large in advance of the reunion, in door prizes and special gifts, and in anonymous donations dropped into the reunion offering plates, plus reunion raffle quilts and the many reunion auction donations that raised such a wonderful sum of money this year.

Those who help to produce the reunion do far more than pay the bills for one day in the life of

our family. They help to insure that the work of the association will continue.

Our reunion angels see the big picture and know full well the value of our creation.

If you attended the reunion, you owe thanks to those below. And we all owe these generous folks a round of applause for personally taking responsibility for the well being of our family and it's future.

If a contribution is accidentally omitted or overlooked, please know and understand that it is only because of human error, and certainly not for lack of appreciation.

Reunion general fund

Advance donations to the general fund are critical to producing the reunion. Only through these advance donations can plans be turned into reality. If not for the donations acknowledged below, the doors would not have opened on the morning of Saturday, October 16. Sincere thanks to each donor!

Alabama

Billy R. Moore, Rainbow City, Alabama
Nina L. Allison, Sterrett, Alabama
Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama
George & Delores Shultz, Gadsden, Alabama
Jimmy & Allison Scruggs, Marion, Alabama
Frances Eiland, Gadsden, Alabama
Julianne Allison Wells, Birmingham, Alabama
Doyle Chambers, Arab, Alabama

Arizona

Marilon Stewart, Fort Mohave, Arizona

California

Roxanna Bradley, Cottonwood, California
Klonie Kunzel, San Diego, California

Florida

Victor Allison, Lakeport, Florida
Danny Allison, Lakeland, Florida
Walter & Wanda Aiken, Ocala, Florida

Charles & Peggy Duman, Flagler Beach, Florida
Janet Martin, Sarasota, Florida
Perry & Julie Phillips, Oviedo, Florida

Georgia

Jere & Barbara Westmoreland, Helen, Georgia
Bob Allison, Decatur, Georgia
Betty Allison Skinner, Cornelia, Georgia
Tom & Mary Allison, Riverdale, Georgia
Barbara Allison Price, Locust Grove, Georgia
Roy & Julie Melton, Smyrna, Georgia
June Kimbrough, Smyrna, Georgia
Martha Allison Melton, Conyers, Georgia
Joe & Barbara Cwik, Gainesville, Georgia
Ed & Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia
Marion Allison Webb, Lawrenceville, Georgia
Lloyd Allison, Cleveland, Georgia
Lester & Barbara Allison, Cleveland, Georgia
Sandra Kidd, Decatur, Georgia
Sue K. Blalock, Cleveland, Georgia
Richard & Ann Greene, Cartersville, Georgia
Russ & Wynelle Allison Wyndham, Tate, Georgia
Burns & Regina Allison Pruett, Thomas, Georgia

Kansas

Peggy McNair, Maple Hill, Kansas

Louisiana

Leonard Harrington, New Orleans, Louisiana

Maryland

Barry & Phyllis Miller, Millersville, Maryland
William & Catherine Allison, Glen Burnie, Maryland
Winton & Blanche Bakke, Severna Park, Maryland
Jim & Sharon Tate, St. Leonard, Maryland

Michigan

Milus & Diane Allison, St. Clair, Michigan
Karen Werkema, Wayland, Michigan
Garland & Patricia Allison, Middleville, Michigan
Alissa Galvan, Ecorse, Michigan
Charles & Elizabeth Allison, Clinton Township, Mich.

Mississippi

David Cox, Tupelo, Mississippi

North Carolina

Leon & Janice Allison Jones, Cherokee, N. Carolina
Virginia Allison Lollis, Asheville, North Carolina
Wilson & Ann King Kent, Hot Springs, North Carolina
Tom & Faith Allison, Gastonia, North Carolina
Tammy Styles, Sylva, North Carolina
Christine Ducker, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina
Hix Allison Bradley, Forest City, North Carolina
Melvin & Edna Allison, Etowah, North Carolina
Farrell Moore, Brevard, North Carolina
Elizabeth Rahn, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina
Michael & Sharon Stewart, Pineola, North Carolina
Robert & Charlotte Galloway, Brevard, North Carolina
Frank & Mary Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina
Beulah Allison Ball, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
William & Mary King, State Road, North Carolina
Vera Allison Garris, Asheville, North Carolina
Brent Allison, Arden, North Carolina
Ada Rudisail, Etowah, North Carolina
Eddie & Wanda Reece, Asheville, North Carolina
Nathaniel Hall, Brevard, North Carolina
Selena Robinson, Brevard, North Carolina
Mary Allison Wilson, Forest City, North Carolina
Kathy Summers, Hendersonville, North Carolina
Sandy Allison Fowler, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Willie H. Fullam, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Debbie Summey, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Linda Peebles, Brevard, North Carolina
Larry B. Allison, Weaverville, North Carolina

Amy Allison, Etowah, North Carolina
Ilene Allison, Zirconia, North Carolina
Susan Allison Cunningham, Horse Shoe, N. Carolina
Joan Allison Hyatt, Swannanoa, North Carolina
Bill & Edith King, Charlotte, North Carolina
James E. Allison, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Linda Shirlin, Asheville, North Carolina
Camille Brown, Hendersonville, North Carolina
Ann Allison Martin, Greensboro, North Carolina
Tricia Ashe, Brevard, North Carolina
Debbie Browning, Clyde, North Carolina

Ohio

William & Virginia Allison, Big Prairie, Ohio
Cecil Leslie, Wooster, Ohio

South Carolina

Doyle & Margie Allison, Spartanburg, South Carolina
Ed & Dottie Allison, Travelers Rest, South Carolina
Becky Howell, Honea Path, South Carolina
Debrada Browning, Simpsonville, South Carolina
Mildred George, Waterloo, South Carolina
Carol Pittman, Campobello, South Carolina
Shirley H. Shirley, Lexington, South Carolina
Samuel Benson, Travelers Rest, South Carolina
Arthur & Betty Allison, Charleston, South Carolina

Tennessee

Joe L. Allison, Johnson City, Tennessee
Rem & Louise Edwards, Knoxville, Tennessee
Lynn & Carolyn Allison Rhea, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Lanier & Bonnie Goard, Maryville, Tennessee
Elizabeth Allison, Cleveland, Tennessee
June Allison Jenkins, Cedar Grove, Tennessee
Louie J. Allison, Kingsport, Tennessee
J. Barry Allison, Kingsport, Tennessee

Texas

Jack Rudisail, Jacksonville, Texas

Virginia

Pete & Monique Allison, Virginia Beach, Virginia
John Y. Allison, Hampton, Virginia
Suzanne Fisher, Seaford, Virginia
Thomas & Annette Michael, Virginia Beach, Virginia

West Virginia

George & Jennifer Allison, Chester, West Virginia

Washington

Paul Allison, Zillah, Washington

Reunion floral fund

Sincere thanks to the many members who donated to the reunion floral fund in honor of living family members and in memory of those no longer with us. Your donations were just as important as the general fund. Without these donations that pay for so many special touches, the reunion could not have gone on as planned.

Alabama

Ramona Brooks, Gadsden, Alabama
Billy R. Moore, Rainbow City, Alabama
Nina L. Allison, Sterrett, Alabama
Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama
Barbara Hartman, Glencoe, Alabama
Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Alabama

Arizona

Marilon Stewart, Fort Mohave, Arizona

Colorado

Mary Lucia Allison Short, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Amy C. Miller, Denver, Colorado

Florida

Janet Martin, Sarasota, Florida
June Allison Bailey, Satsuma, Florida
Laura Allison, De Funiak Springs, Florida
Peggy Duman, Flagler Beach, Florida

Georgia

Jere & Barbara Westmoreland, Helen, Georgia
Tom and Mary Allison, Riverdale, Georgia
Ed & Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia
Martha Allison Melton, Conyers, Georgia
Audrey Allison Davis, Cleveland, Georgia
Betty Allison Skinner, Cornelia, Georgia
Barbara Price, Locust Grove, Georgia
Louise Vandiver Allison, Lavonia, Georgia
Regina Allison Pruett, Thomaston, Georgia

Kansas

Peggy McNair, Maple Hill, Kansas

Louisiana

Leonard Harrington, New Orleans, Louisiana

Maryland

Barry & Phyllis Miller, Millersville, Maryland
Judy Allison Echols, Frederick, Maryland
Winton & Allison Blanche Bakke, Severna Park, Maryland
Jim Tate, St. Leonard, Maryland

Michigan

Charles & Elizabeth Allison, Clinton Township, Mich.

North Carolina

Wilson & Ann King Kent, Hot Springs, North Carolina
Mary Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina
Beulah Allison Morgan, Hendersonville, N. Carolina
Vera Garris, Asheville, North Carolina
Willie Holden Fullam, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Debbie Summey, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Melvin E. Allison, Etowah, North Carolina
Virginia Lollis, Asheville, North Carolina
Tom L. Allison, Gastonia, North Carolina
Ada Dalton Rudisail, Etowah, North Carolina
Farrell Moore, Brevard, North Carolina
Rufus Franklin Allison, Jr., Kinston, N. Carolina,
Christine Ducker, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina
Louise Corn, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina
Gayle Hoverson, Hendersonville, North Carolina
Beulah Allison Ball, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Linda Benson Peeples, Brevard, North Carolina
Margaret Benson Garren, Brevard, North Carolina
Amy Allison, Horse Shoe, North Carolina
Larry Allison, Asheville, North Carolina
Jean Pickelsimer Young, Pisgah Forest, N. Carolina
Linda Shirlin, Asheville, North Carolina

South Carolina

Ed & Dottie Allison, Travelers Rest, South Carolina
Sarah Beth Allison Quinn, Spartanburg, South Carolina
Sam Benson, Travelers Rest, South Carolina
Roland Benson, Travelers Rest, South Carolina
Arthur Allison, Charleston, South Carolina

Tennessee

Louie J. Allison, Kingsport, Tennessee
J.J. & Eloise Moffit Farias, Hampton, Tennessee
Beth Benson Kidd, Tullahoma, Tennessee
Carolyn Allison Rhea, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Texas

Richard Allison, La Porte, Texas

Jack Rudisail, Jacksonville, Texas
Nira Joy Paron McCullough, Mansfield, Texas
Lynette Bailey, Mansfield, Texas

Virginia

Pete & Monique Allison, Virginia Beach, Virginia

West Virginia

George & Jennifer Allison, Chester, West Virginia

Flowers In honor of

Michael and Janice Bates, Brighton, England, United Kingdom, our dear friends & adopted cousins

By Nina Allison & Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama

Leon & Janice Allison Jones, Cherokee, North Carolina, our dear friends and cousins

By Nina Allison & Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama

Gladys Aten Morrow, Burlington, Iowa, celebrating her 97th birthday, our cousin

By Nina Allison & Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama

Julianne Allison Wells, Birmingham, Alabama

By Nina L. Allison, aunt, Sterrett, Alabama

Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, celebrating his 50th birthday on October 25, 2004

By Nina L. Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, sister

Virginia Moore McKinney, Dallas

By sister Nira McCullough, Mansfield, Texas, sister

William O. King, Jr. & Edith Sellers King, Charlotte, North Carolina

By daughter Ann Kent, Hot Springs, North Carolina

Mary Allison, Riverdale, Georgia, celebrating birthday

By husband Tom L. Allison, Riverdale, Georgia

Our Children **Jeff, Kelly, & Melissa**, and grandchildren

Kaitlyn, Cody, Cory, Christian, & Sophia

By Wilson and Ann Kent, Hot Springs, N. Carolina

Beth Allison Whitlock, Alvin Allison, & Luther Allison, our children

By Tom and Mary Allison, Riverdale, Georgia

Joel Courtney Guest, Moody AFB, Georgia, proudly serving his country

By Ed & Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia, parents

Helen Allison Thornton, Hickory, North Carolina

By Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia, niece

Ada Rudisail, Etowah, North Carolina, my mother

By Jack Rudisail, Jacksonville, Texas

Allison and Patrick Fitzsimmons, niece & nephew

By Jack Rudisail, Jacksonville, Texas

Francis Rass Allison, Brevard, North Carolina, honoring his 86th birthday

By Mary Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina, cousin

Jean Young, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, honoring the loving care she provided to her mother, Flora Allison Pickelsimer

By Mary Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina, cousin

George Alexander Allison, Chester, West Virginia, father and grandfather

By George, Jennifer, Derek, & Vincent Allison, Chester, West Virginia

Mildred Olive Allison White, Chester, West Virginia, grand aunt

By George, Jennifer, Derek, & Vincent Allison, Chester, West Virginia

Our grandchildren: **Anthony, B.J., Blake, Brandon, Daniel, Victoria, Amanda, Taylor, & Chase**

By Ed & Dottie Allison, Travelers Rest, S. Carolina

Joseph "Joe" Meek Allison, Waynesville, North

Carolina, in celebration of his 80th birthday, brother

By Mary Lucia Allison Short, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Robert F. Short, Colorado Springs, Colorado, celebrating our 51st wedding anniversary

By Mary Lucia Allison Short, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Louise Vandiver Allison, wife of Thomas Autry

Allison, Lavonia, Georgia, celebrating her 86th year

By Martha A. Melton, Conyers, Georgia, daughter

Roy & Julie Melton, Smyrna, Georgia, in celebration of their first wedding anniversary

By Martha Allison Melton, Conyers, Georgia, mother

Allison Elizabeth Ann Melton, Smyrna, Georgia, grand-daughter of Thomas Autry Allison and Louise Vandiver Allison

By Martha Allison Melton, Conyers, Georgia, mother

Arnold W. "Pete" Allison & Monique Allison, Virginia Beach, Virginia

By Peggie McNair, Maple Hill, Kansas, niece

Gladys M. Morrow, Burlington, Iowa, celebrated 97th birthday on July 28, 2004

By cousin Marilon Stewart, Fort Mohave, Arizona

Joel Ray & Kathy Morgan, Hendersonville, N. Carolina

By Beulah Allison Morgan, Hendersonville, North Carolina mother

Bill & Sandra Morgan Carpenter, Hendersonville, North Carolina

By Beulah Allison Morgan, Hendersonville, North Carolina, mother

Frances Parton Eiland, Gadsden Alabama, my aunt I love very much

By Lynette Bailey, Mansfield, Texas, niece

Anthony Allison, Greenville, South Carolina, serving his country, now stationed in Kansas

By June Allison Bailey, Satsuma, Florida

My aunts **Frances Eiland, Inez McKinney, & Nira McCullough**

By niece Ramona Brooks, Gadsden, Alabama, niece

Melvin & Edna Allison, Horse Shoe, North Carolina 19
By niece Willie H. Fullam, Horse Shoe, N. Carolina

Lafay & Beulah Allison Ball, Horse Shoe, North Carolina, my parents

By Debbie Summey, Horse Shoe, North Carolina

Moneta Allison Thorpe, Nashville, Tennessee, sister
By Arthur Allison, Charleston, South Carolina

Flowers in loving memory of

Burns Pruett (1927-2004), Thomaston, Georgia,
husband of Regina Allison Pruett

By Michael Allison & Nina Allison, Sterrett, Alabama,

Flora Allison Pickelsimer (1908-2004), founding
association member, Penrose, North Carolina

By Michael Allison & Nina Allison, Sterrett, Alabama,

By Mary E. Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina, cousin

By Jean Pickesimer Young, Pisgah Forest, North
Carolina, daughter

Anna Belle Allison (1914-2000), founding association
member, Brevard, North Carolina, our aunt

By Nina Allison & Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama,

Stella Faye Allison Holden (1906-2004), founding
association member, Horse Shoe, North Carolina

By Willie Fullam, Horse Shoe, N. Carolina, daughter

By Melvin Allison, Etowah, North Carolina, brother

By Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, cousin

John I. D. Allison (1923-2003), founding association
member, Cleveland, Tennessee

By Elizabeth D. Allison, Cleveland, Tennessee, wife

By Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, cousin

Dorothy Allison Batson (1918-2000), founding
association member, Brevard, North Carolina

By Farrell Moore, Brevard, North Carolina, nephew

Thomas George (1922-2004), founding association
member, Waterloo, South Carolina, husband of
Mildred Allison George.

By Ed & Dottie Allison, Travelers Rest, South
Carolina, brother-in-law & sister-in-law

By Sarah Beth Allison Quinn, Spartanburg, South
Carolina, sister-in-law

By Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, cousin

Charles F. Allison, Sr. (1930-2004), founding
association member, Cleveland, Georgia

By Jere & Barbara Westmoreland, Cleveland,
Georgia, cousins

By cousins Michael Allison, Nina Allison, Sterrett, Ala.

By L. Tom Allison, Jr., Riverdale, Georgia, cousin

By Audrey Allison Davis, Cleveland, Georgia, sister

By Mary E. Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina, cousin

Horace Virgil Parton (1887-1935), Hendrixville,
Alabama and Atlanta, Texas

By Billy R. Moore, Rainbow City, Ala., grandson

Ima Moore Parton Daniel (1905-1989), Titus and
Bowie Counties, Texas

By Nira McCullough, Mansfield, Texas, daughter

Grady Woodfin Allison (1890-1988), Mills River &
Brevard, North Carolina

By daughters Vera Garriss & Virginia Lollis, Asheville,
North Carolina

Walter McKissick Allison (1944-2003), Irving, Texas,
and Frisco

By Richard Allison, La Porte, Texas, brother

Richard Charles Allison (1912-1996) & **Helen
McKissick Allison** (1917-1997), Dallas, Texas

By Richard Allison, La Porte, Texas, son

Loui Allison Meredith (1919-2003), Gadsden,
Alabama and Okeechobee, Florida

By Pete & Monique Allison, Virginia Beach, Virginia,
nephew & niece

Luther Allison (1895-1984) & **Hester Allison** (1899-
1984), Morrow, Georgia

By L. Tom Allison, Jr., Riverdale, Georgia, son

Moody Benjamin Allison (1902-1970) & **Mary Lucy
Freeman Allison** 1913-2002), Cleveland, Georgia,
our parents

By Barbara Price, Locust Grove, Georgia; Betty
Allison Skinner, Cornelia, Georgia; Tom L. Allison,
Gastonia, North Carolina

William Wilson (1906-1976) & **Flonie Etta Allison
Wilson** (1914-1992), White County, Georgia and
Fort Collins, Colorado

By Janet Martin, Sarasota, Florida, daughter

James Alonzo Allison (1871-1945) & **Julia Etta
Adams** (1885-1932), White County, Georgia

By Janet Martin, Sarasota, Florida, granddaughter

William A. Wilson (1879-1945) & **Lillie Paralee
Cannon Wilson** (1874-1964), Habersham and White
Counties, Georgia

By Janet Martin, Sarasota, Florida, granddaughter

Tomie Cooper Allison (1895-1966), Dawson County &
Gainesville, Georgia

By Louie J. Allison, Kingsport, Tennessee, son

E. Carl Allison (1891-1972) & **Victoria Moore Allison**
(1891-1957), Brevard, North Carolina, parents

By Winton and Blanche Allison Bakke, Severna
Park, Maryland

James Howard Allison, Sr. & **Lyda Harrell Allison**,
Atlanta, Georgia

By Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia, granddaughter

Joel Collie Robertson & Audrey Allison Robertson
(1908-1989), Atlanta, Georgia

By Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia, daughter

William Noah Allison (1895-1994), Cleveland, Georgia
By Audrey A Davis, Cleveland, Georgia, daughter

Harriet Allison Dalton, my loving grandmother, and
her two daughters, my aunts **Myrtle Dill Nicholson**
& **Gertrude Dill Baynard**, grandmother & aunts
By Jack Rudisail, Jacksonville, Texas

Wash Allison (1882-1973), Boylston, North Carolina
and Prince George's County, Maryland, grandfather
By Barry & Phyllis Miller, Millersville, Maryland

Harriet Allison Dalton (1885-1982) Transylvania
County & Etowah, North Carolina

By Ada Rudisail, Etowah, North Carolina, daughter

Nanza Mae Allison Hicks (1914-2003), Transylvania
County, North Carolina & Glen Burnie, Maryland,
mother and great-grandmother
By Phyllis Hicks Miller, Millersville, Maryland, and
Hannah DiBella, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rufus Franklin Allison, Sr. (1900-1953), Old Fort,
North Carolina & Pemberville, Ohio, father
By Rufus Franklin Allison, Jr., Kinston, N. Carolina

Clara Parton Moore (1915-1986), Ohatchee and
Gadsden, Alabama

By Barbara Hartman, Glencoe, Alabama, daughter

Thomas Autry Allison (1909-1994) Flowery Branch
and Lavonia, Georgia

By Louise Vandiver Allison, Lavonia, Georgia, wife

By Martha L. Allison Melton, Conyers, Georgia,
daughter

Benjamin Patrick Allison (1893-1978) & **Audrey**

Black Allison (1897-1976), White County, Georgia
and Thomaston, Georgia

By Regina Pruett, Thomaston, Georgia, daughter

Edgar L. & Ruby V. Allison, Young Harris, Georgia &
Chattanooga, Tennessee

By daughter Carolyn Allison Rhea, Chattanooga,
Tennessee, daughter

Kathryn Pearl Slabaugh Allison (1937-2002),
Pennsylvania & Chester, West Virginia

By George Allison, Chester, West Virginia, son

John Thomas Allison (1897-1960), Hookstown,
Pennsylvania & Chester, West Virginia

By George Allison, Chester, West Virginia, grandson

Pearl Allison Mullenex (1900-1987), Pisgah Forest,
North Carolina, my mother

By Christine Ducker, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina,

By Louise Corn, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

Jarvis Harden Allison (1883-1961) & **Mollie Queen**
Allison (1886-1976), Waynesville, North Carolina

By Mary Lucia Allison Short, Colorado Springs,
Colorado, daughter

Nan Allison McNair (1922-1995), Gadsden, Alabama
& Wichita Falls, Texas

By Peggye McNair, Maple Hill, Kansas, daughter

Margaret "Peggy" Allison Harrington (1918-1989),
Gadsden, Alabama & Miami, Florida
By children Leonard Harrington, Irving Harrington, &
Peggy Duman

Brothers **Louis Riley Allison** & **Sam Allison**,
Gadsden, Alabama

By Peggye McNair, Maple Hill, Kansas,
granddaughter and grand niece

Nanza Mae Allison Hicks (1914-2003), Brevard,
Transylvania County, North Carolina & Glen Burnie,
Maryland

By Amy C. Miller, Denver, Colorado, granddaughter

Charles Robert Allison (1911-1999) & **Nina Burrell**
Allison (1915-2003), Brevard, North Carolina &
Sterrett, Alabama, parents

By Michael Allison & Nina Allison, Sterrett, Alabama

Andrew Fuller Allison (1878-1915), Brevard, North
Carolina

By Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, grandson

Rev. Elijah Marion Allison (1840-1923), Davidson
River & Brevard, North Carolina

By Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, gr-grandson

Francis Posey Allison (1778-1867), Montgomery
County, Maryland & Brevard area, Transylvania
County, North Carolina

By Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, great-great-
grandson

Raynel L. Morgan (1909-1991) Transylvania &
Henderson Counties, North Carolina

By Beulah Allison Morgan, Hendersonville, North
Carolina, mother

Otis Martin Morgan, (1934-1994), Transylvania
County, North Carolina

By Beulah Allison Morgan, Hendersonville, North
Carolina, wife

Nanza Mae Allison Hicks (1914-2003), Transylvania
County, North Carolina & Glen Burnie, Maryland,
mother and great-grandmother

By Phyllis Hicks Miller, Millersville, Maryland, and
Hannah DiBella, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mayo Allison Moffitt (1913-1996), Henderson County,
North Carolina

J.J. & Eloise Moffit Farias, Hampton, Tenn, daughter

Harriet Allison Dalton (1885-1982) Transylvania
County & Etowah, North Carolina

By Ada Rudisail, Etowah, North Carolina, daughter

Brittain Wilson Parton (1808-1880) & **Nancy E.**
Allison Parton (1817-1863), Haywood County,

North Carolina

By Lynnette Bailey, Mansfield, Texas, great-great-
granddaughter

Fred Allison (1926-1975), Boaz, Alabama

By Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Alabama, sister

Nellie Rebecca Allison Barton (1888-1984), Brevard, North Carolina

By Gayle Hoverson, Hendersonville, North Carolina, granddaughter

Charles Allard Allison, Jr. (1956-2001), Dearborn, Michigan & Racine, Wisconsin

By Judy Allison Echols, Frederick, Maryland, sister

By Charles & Elizabeth Allison, Clinton Township, Michigan, parents

Recil Buchanan Benson (1913-1988), Cleveland & Travelers Rest, South Carolina, our mother.

By Roland Benson, Beth Benson Kidd, Nancy Benson Evatt, & Sam Benson

Bertie Allison Henderson (1882-1975), Duke's Creek, White County, Georgia, & Brunswick Glenn, Georgia

By Jim Tate, St. Leonard, Maryland, grandson

Goodman Hugh Allison (1863-1933) & **Annie**

Wheeler Allison (1870-1911), Georgia & Boaz, Ala.

By Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Alabama, granddaughter

William Neely Allison (1890-1957) & **Fannie Lula**

Bailey Allison (1902-1999), Georgia and Boaz, Ala.

By Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Ala., daughter

Fannie Laura Allison Bobo (1922-1998), Georgia & Albertville, Alabama

By Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Alabama, sister

Warren Everett Holland (1925-1988), Oneonta & Boaz, Alabama

By Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Alabama, wife

Glen Allison Holland (1955-2003), Gadsden & Albertville, Alabama

By Lois Allison Holland, Albertville, Alabama, mother

Richard Edgar Allison (1890-1950) & wife **Sarah**

Ellen Allison (1904-1949), born Transylvania

County, North Carolina

By Beulah Allison Ball, Horse Shoe, North Carolina, daughter

Walter Dakota Allison (1897-1980), Brevard and Hendersonville, North Carolina

By Debbie Summey, Horse Shoe, grand niece

William Ralph Benson (1909-1988) & wife **Julia Johnson Benson** (1910-

1985), Brevard, North Carolina

By daughters Linda Benson Peeples & Margaret Benson Garren, Brevard, North Carolina

Clyde Robert Allison (1922-1997), Horse Shoe, North Carolina

By wife Amy Allison, Horse Shoe, North Carolina, & son Larry Allison, Asheville, North Carolina

Mickie Carden (1952-1999), Dearborn & Monroe, Michigan

By Laura Allison, Brevard, North Carolina & De Funiak Springs, Florida, mother

Thanks to generous raffle, auction, door prizes donors!

The huge number of generous door prize donors made the day so much more fun for all. Auction donors, plus those who bid and won, helped to raise a great deal of money to help fund the reunion. And of course the raffle donors provide us with valuable items that raise a great deal of desperately needed money. We thank you!

Raffle donors

Ed Allison, Travelers Rest, South Carolina, **Diane Guest**, Tucker, Georgia

Campbell, Brevard, North Carolina; **Kathy McGee**, Texas; **Janice Bates**, Brighton, England, UK

Auction donors

June Kirk, Cottonwood, California; **Roxanna Bradley**, Cottonwood, California; **Ann Kent**, Hot Springs, North Carolina; **Ann Propst**, Brevard, North Carolina; **Michael Allison**, Sterrett, Alabama; **Joyce Larson**, Orlando, Florida; **Ben Allison**, Los Angeles, California; **Dottie Allison**, Travelers Rest, South Carolina; **Nina Allison**, Sterrett, Alabama; **George Shultz**, Gadsden, Alabama; **Becky Howell**, Honea Path, South Carolina; **Bill & Virginia Allison**, Big Prairie, Ohio; **Cecil Leslie**, Wooster, Ohio; **Jacolyn**

Auction high bid winners

Linda Peeples, Brevard, North Carolina; **Stella Trapp**, Brevard, North Carolina; **Fran Allison**, Kinston, North Carolina; **Bonnie Goard**, Maryville, Tennessee; **Steve Werkama**, Wayland, Michigan; **Milus Allison**, St. Claire, Michigan; **Klonie Kunzil**, San Diego, California; **John Allison**, Hampton, Virginia; **Dee Ray**, Hilton Head, South Carolina; **Ramona Brooks**, Gadsden, Alabama; **Tom Messer**, Birmingham, AL; **Sandra Kidd**, Atlanta, Georgia; **Ann Kent**, Hot Springs, North Carolina; **Bill King**, State Road, North Carolina; **Rita Bishop**, Georgetown, Texas; **Peggye McNair**, Maple

Hill, Kansas; **Janice Allison Jones**, Cherokee, North Carolina; **Jere Lynn Whitfield**, Cleveland, Georgia; **Allison McCall**, Brevard, North Carolina; **George Shultz**, Gadsden, Alabama; **Sue Allison**, Cleveland, Georgia; **Donna Kaye Burke**, Helen, Georgia.

Door Prize donors

Linda Peeples, Brevard, NC; **Bill & Virginia Allison**, Big Prairie, OH; **Phyllis Miller**, Millersville, MD; **Jack Rudisail**, Jacksonville, TX; **Billy Moore**, Rainbow City,

AL; **Nina Allison**, Sterrett, AL; **Ramona Brooks**, Gadsden, AL; **Nira McCullough**, Mansfield, TX; **Dottie Allison**, Travelers Rest, SC; **Barbara Hartman**, Glencoe, AL; **Lloyd Allison**, Cleveland, GA; **Barbara Allison**, Cleveland, Georgia; **Diane Guest**, Tucker, GA; **Amy Miller**, Denver CO; **Becky Howell**, Honea Path, SC; **Virginia Allison Lollis**, Asheville, NC; **Transylvania County Handcrafters Guild**, Brevard, NC. **Marilon Stewart**, Fort Mohave, Arizona. **Diane Guest**, Tucker, GA.

Reunion 2004

The Homecoming

A wandering old British family celebrated its 346th year in America

Build it and they will come...

And come they did, from California, to Michigan, to New York, to Florida, and from all parts in between — almost 400 strong they came!

Twelve months worth of hard work by a small few paid off oh so well for the entire family on the weekend of October 16. A grand old American family celebrated its past and its present in the grandest style yet.

Thirty-three states were represented by the huge crowd that assembled at various times over the event-

packed three day weekend festivities. Mother Nature's fall color timing was slightly off and a little behind schedule, but few if any Allison family members were bothered. A crowd of almost 400 was far too busy meeting, greeting, and rediscovering the tie that binds such an incredibly large group of diverse people into a single flesh and blood family.

Reunion highlight gets most praise, most compliments, requests for repeat **"Twilight on the River" at Hawg Wild — 2004 winner!**

Friday evening outdoors at Hawg Wild Restaurant was a major hit with the family, in spite of the unusually chilly evening. 222 people reserved for the outdoor fireside dinner on the river. Smiling faces and warm, lively conversation are proof enough that this was the highlight of the reunion for most.

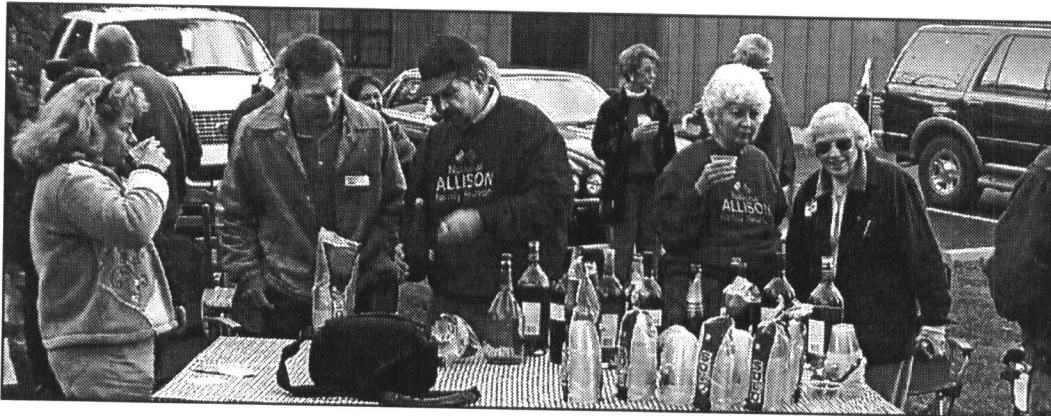
Even the unexpected cold snap and brisk wind rolling down from the high ridges didn't spoil the fun for the large crowd. The chill was quickly forgotten the moment Her Majesty's Consul General Michael

Bates came forward to offer the ceremonial toast to the Allison family, followed by the very traditional British toast to the Queen offered by Michael Allison that resulted in "God Save the Queen!" echoing back from the crowd.

As attested to by almost everyone who wrote letters to the editor in this issue, the toast was a moment never to be forgotten. And, as requested by so many of us, the toast should become a cherished new family tradition.



Eager Allison cousins were already arriving on the riverbank at Hawg Wild by the 6:00 p.m. starting time. The family fire circle began forming immediately around the blazing campfire that added the perfect touch at sunset. *Photo by Joe Cwik*



Sampling English meade and getting ready for the toast. From left: Betsy Langston, Brevard; Lloyd Allison, Cleveland, Georgia whose honey was used to make the meade; Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama pouring a sample; Nina Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, talking with new found cousin Marion Webb, Lawrenceville, Georgia. *Photo by Billy Moore, Gadsden, Alabama*

The crowd continued growing until sunset and time for the ceremonial toast, eventually filling up the large torchlit lawn area on the banks of Davidson River. Smiling, excited cousins from all across America and from every branch of the family tree moved about the crowd greeting old friends and making new friends with cousins never met before. Dinner at Hawg Wild afforded the reunion the best social opportunity ever. *Photo right and below by L. Tom Allison*

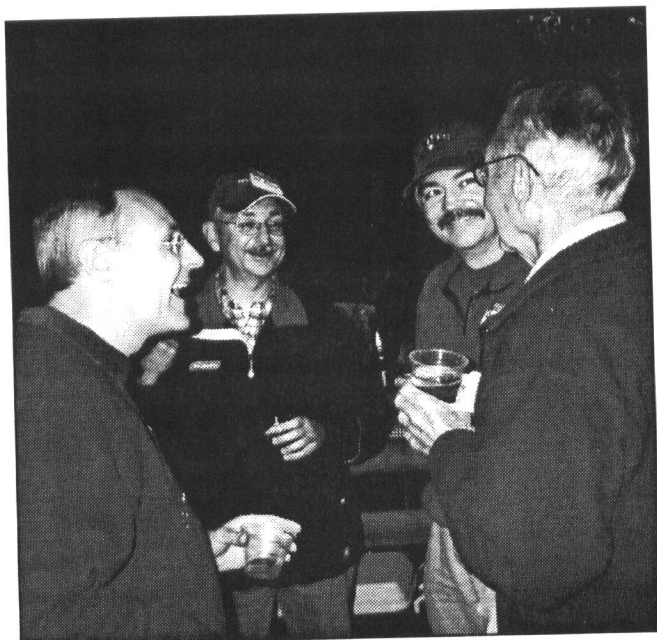




Bradley Brothers Band set the mood for the evening with lively pickin' n' fiddlin' and down-home vocals.
Photo by L. Tom Allison



Ramona Brooks and Frances Parton Eiland, Gadsden, Alabama.
Photo by Lynnette Bailey



Michael Bates, talks with Joe Allison, Johnson City, Tennessee, Barry Allison, Kingsport, Tennessee, and Louie Allison, Johnson City.
Photo by Jack Rudisail

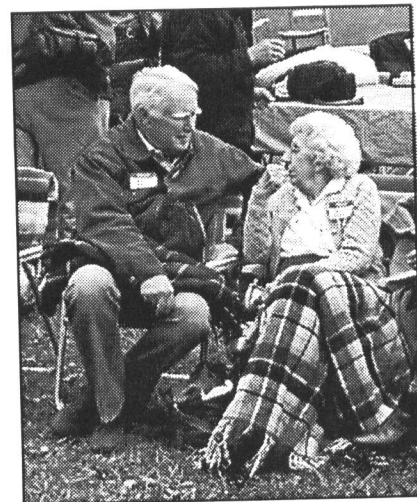


From left, front: Loyce Allison, Johnson City, Tennessee, Faith and Tom Allison, Gastonia, North Carolina. Back: Betty Allison Skinner, Cornelia, Georgia; Barbara Allison Price & Robert Price, Locust Grove, Georgia; Louie Allison, Johnson City, Tennessee, and Susan Allison, Gastonia, North Carolina. *Photo by Joe Allison*



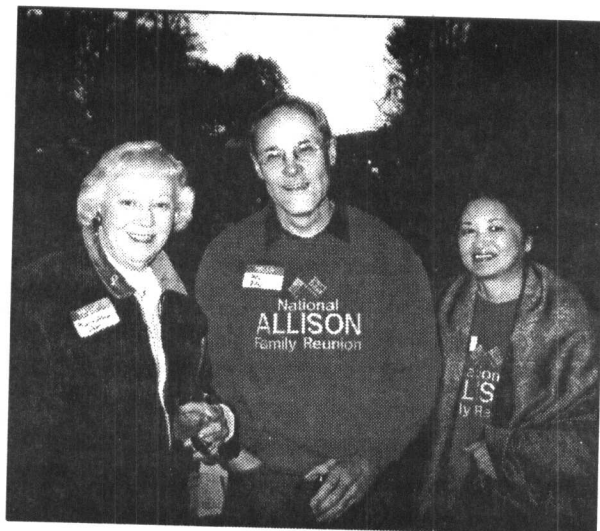
Barry and Phyllis Miller, Millersville, Maryland; Amy Miller, Denver, Colorado; Ralph Allison, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina; Bill and Ellen Allison, Fayetteville, North Carolina.
Photo by Marion Webb

Jones Webb, Lawrenceville, Georgia visits with Sue Blalock, Cleveland, Georgia.
Photo by Billy Moore

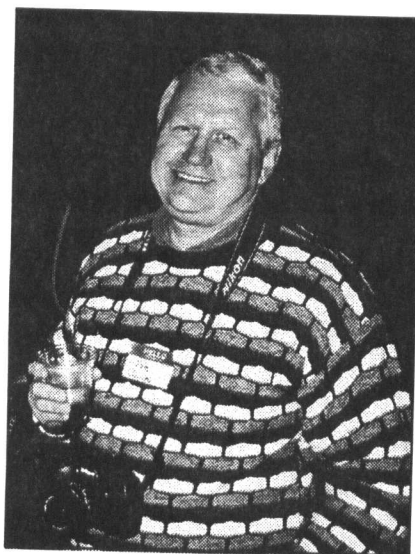




Barbara Hartman, Glencoe, Alabama; Billy Moore, Gadsden, Alabama, Virginia McKinney, Dallas, Texas; Nira McCullough, Mansfield, Texas; standing Lynette Bailey, Mansfield, Texas. Photo by Delores Shultz



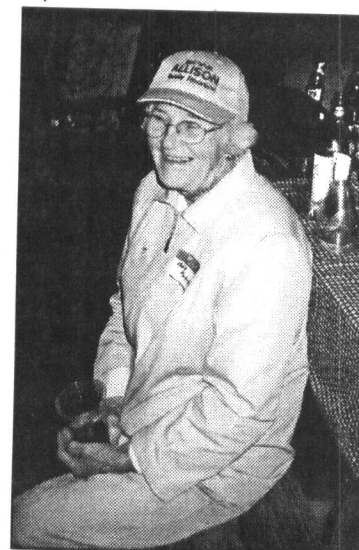
As the sun sets, Marion Webb, Lawrenceville, Georgia visits with Consul General Michael Bates and Janice Bates. Photo by Jones Webb



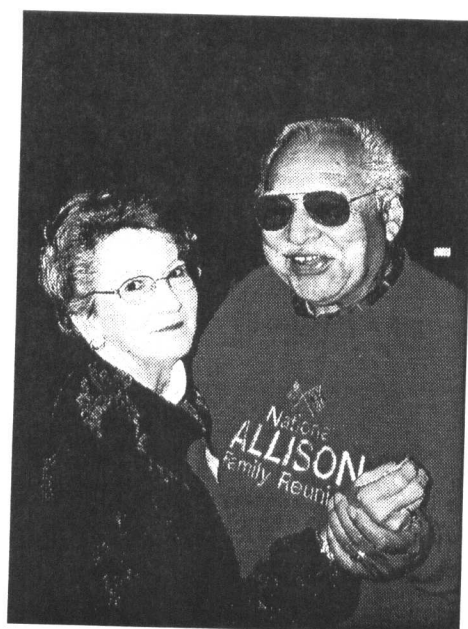
Joe Cwik, Gainesville, Georgia
Photos this row by Jack Rudisail



Hard at work selling raffle tickets. Dottie Allison, Travelers Rest, South Carolina and Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia



Ada Rudisail, Etowah, North Carolina



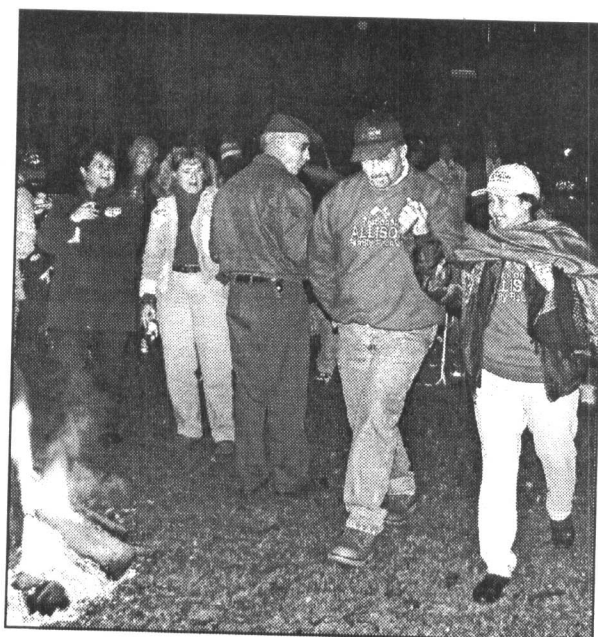
Dancing 'round the fire

Janice Allison Jones and Chief Leon Jones, former Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, North Carolina take a spin around the "dance floor"

Photo by Jack Rudisail

Dancing an old style English waltz – Janice Bates, wife of Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates, and Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama

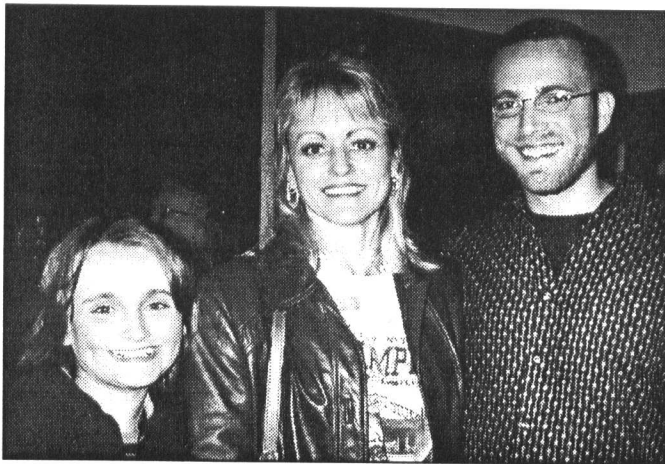
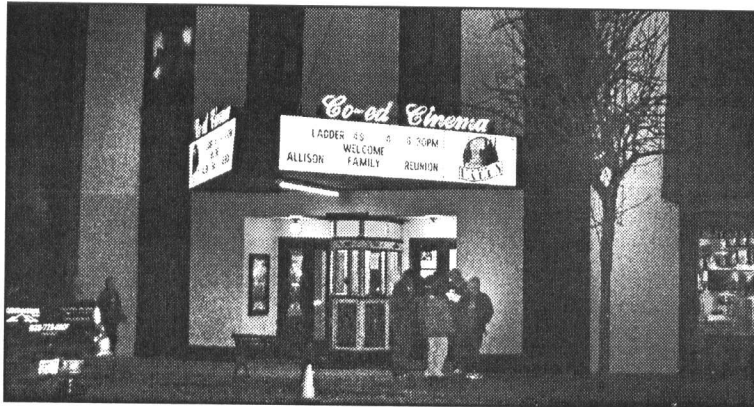
Photo by Diane Guest



Friday evening film screening — “Two soldiers”

Just after 8:00 p.m., the crowd began leaving Hawg Wild for the drive to nearby downtown Brevard to the Co-Ed Falls Theater for the screening of the Oscar winning film “Two Soldiers” featuring Ben Allison in a starring role.

Approximately 220 people attended the well received screening. The film is based on William Faulkner’s poignant short story about unfaltering family ties, and was a most appropriate addition to the 2004 reunion.



Rebekah Dickson, Becky Allison Dickson, Rural Hall, NC: Ben Allison, Los Angeles, CA. *Photo by Marion Webb*



The Bradley Brothers Band opened the film screening with more down-home mountain music. *Photo by Diane Guest*



Following the film screening, many in the audience paused in the lobby area to congratulate Ben Allison on his performance in the film. Here Mary Lewis of Shallotte, North Carolina stops to say hello as she exits the theater, as Ellen and William Allison, Fayetteville, North Carolina (at right) look on.

Photo by Diane Guest

Documentary film project in the works

Plans to tell Allison story in film announced Friday evening

Award-winning filmmaker begins work at reunion

For almost a year, Allison family historian Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama worked quietly behind the scenes with a team of award-winning documentary filmmakers to lay the groundwork for a historical film project on the pioneer Allison family.

The work has paid off well, and plans for the project are now underway. Preliminary shooting began at the 2004 National family Reunion at the Friday evening events.

Press releases to the newspaper in Brevard carried the story just before the reunion, but few Allison family members in other states knew of the project that wasn't announced before the entire assembled family until Friday evening at the film screening of "Two Soldiers", and announced again for the huge crowd on Saturday morning.

The project was the idea of Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates and wife Janice Bates, special guests at the National Allison Family Reunion for the last four years and now adopted Allison cousins.

The distinguished British diplomat and his wife, both have strong ties to the film industry through H. M. Consul General Bates' former service as Assistant Press Secretary to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. By the end of their first visit to the reunion four years ago, the Bates had quickly spotted a rich story in the Allisons of today and their colorful past spanning centuries.

Thanks to their contacts in the film industry, the wheels were set in motion and introductions made between Michael Allison and a top quality young documentary filmmaker with whom the Bates had worked during an earlier project.

The film project will present the life of one family over 500 years, based on writing by Michael Allison. Plans are for the film to capture the very personal story of a moneyed, gentrified London family that went wandering into the New World wilderness in the 1600's, and soon evolved into an American pioneer family.

The family of today gathered together in Brevard at the National Allison Family Reunion will play the leading role in the film, using the family of today to present the story of the past. Individuals from all three racial and cultural groups that make up the culturally and racially diverse Allison family — white, Cherokee Indian, and African American —

will take part in presenting the family story on very personal levels.

Award winning documentary filmmaker Trevor Jenkins and his assistant Anna Lisa Jacobs began the preliminary work on the project that may take several years to complete due to the depth and scope of the planned film. Plans are for an in-depth, multi-part series.

Jenkins shot almost 15 hours of film during the three day reunion weekend and was delighted with the quality of the footage shot. The rich cultural elements of the reunion, especially the music and dancing, provided a perfect backdrop. Several family members spent time before the camera in interview settings, telling their personal story as an Allison family member.

Trevor Jenkins has worked in the entertainment industry in New York and Los Angeles for the past four years, for some of Hollywood's best, including Harvey Keitel, Carol Kane, Donald Petrie, James Gandolfini, Siobhan Fallon and Sheila Jaffe.

He served as personal assistant for actor Harvey Keitel (*The Piano*, *Pulp Fiction*) on Universal Pictures' production *Red Dragon* and GFT Entertainment's *Crime Spree*. He worked for Sheila Jaffe (Casting Director of *The Sopranos*, *The Italian Job*) on Universal Picture's *The Emperor's Club*, *Welcome To Mooseport*, HBO's *Hysterical Blindness*, and numerous others. As a film director, his student short film *Paradosis* won six film festivals in the US and abroad, and after winning the USA Film Festival, received Academy Award eligibility for short subject live action in 1999.

Jenkins music video for Neilson Hubbard's *Everything is Glory* screened at the Directors Guild of America Theater in Los Angeles in 2003. His newest short film, *Chasing The Elephant* featuring a cameo by Harvey Keitel, premiered in Rio De Janeiro.

As a camera person, Jenkins' work has recently been featured on NBC KMIR Palm Springs' and The Food Network.

He has taught filmmaking workshops for young people at the Rockport Film & Television Workshops, The Governor's School for the Arts in Virginia, and most recently the Idyllwild Arts Academy in California.

Saturday morning main event— the heart of reunion **Allison family's big day began bright and early**

While many people were still in bed, or just having their first cup of coffee, many board members and a few of the auxiliary board members were already at Brevard College at work. Most board members had to arrive before daylight to be able to have the doors ready to open by 8:30 a.m.

Each year the National Allison Family Reunion is a little different with something new and exciting to spice up the weekend. But the one consistent, relatively unchanging element in the festivities is the Saturday morning reunion program.

The program is the single reunion event that was originally founded as the National Allison Family

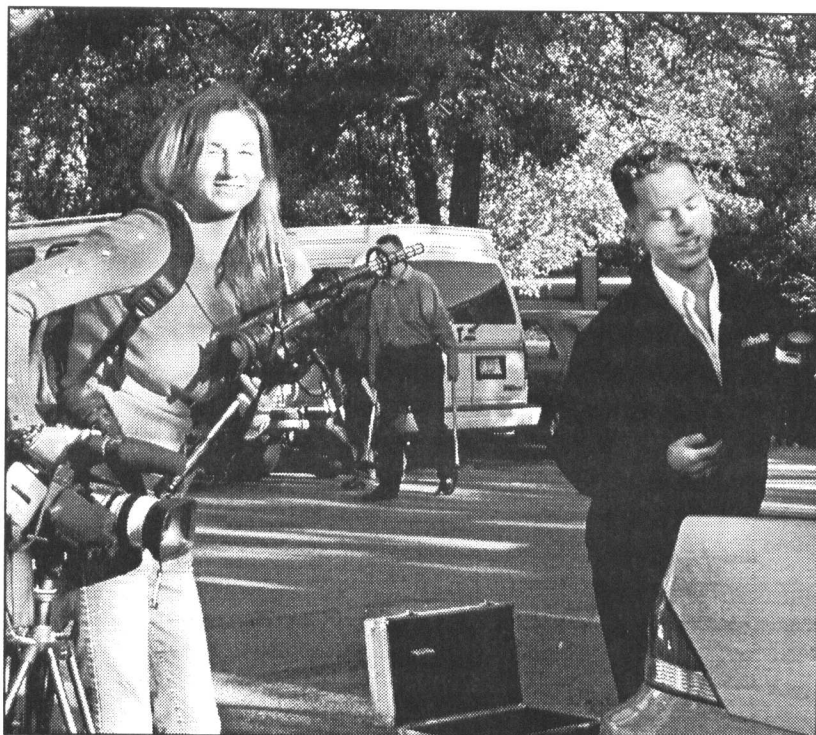
Reunion, and is the foundation upon which all the wonderful auxiliary activities over the years have been built. The program truly is the heart of the reunion.

Soon after the doors opened, a crowd of almost 400 filed through, quickly filling the huge hall to capacity with cousins, many of whom were there for their first reunion ever.

Thanks to Phyllis Miller and family, brightly colored "newcomer ribbons" were pinned on those attending their first reunion. A high number of first-timers attended the 2004 edition of the reunion. The reunited family continues to grow.

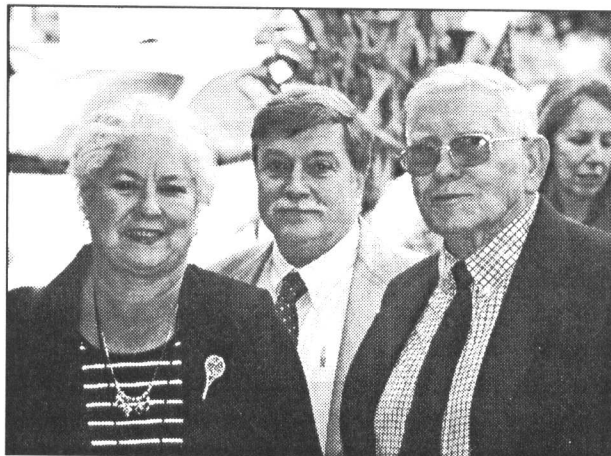


A line of cousins had already formed outside on the sidewalk when the doors opened at 8:30 a.m. *Photos above by Ann Kent*



Filmmakers Anna Lisa Jacobson and Trevor Jenkins arrive and start unpacking cameras and microphones for the documentary film project.

Photos left and below by Ann Kent



Waiting for the doors to open. Fran and Rufus Allison, Kinston, North Carolina with John Y. Allison, Hampton, Virginia at rear.



Sisters Vera Allison Garris and Virginia Allison Lollis, Asheville, North Carolina.



Audrey Allison Davis, Cleveland, Georgia.

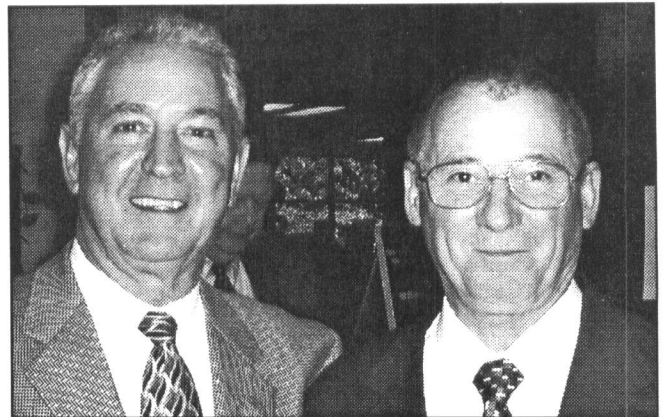


Kathy Summers and Susan Allison Cunningham, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

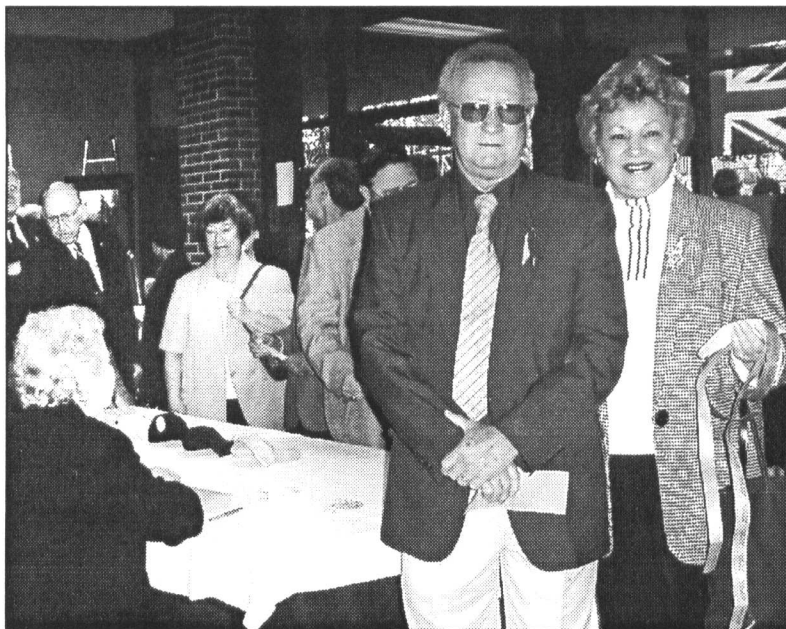
Photos above and below by Ann Kent



Lloyd Allison, Cleveland, Georgia at the busy check-in table staffed by Nadine Raxter Ashe, Horse Shoe, North Carolina, Nina Allison, Sterrett, Alabama, and Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia.



Reunion ushers Milus Allison, St. Claire, Michigan, and Ed Allison, Travelers Rest, South Carolina greeted the massive crowd as it flowed into the huge hall.



First-timers Tom and Annette Michael, Virginia Beach, Virginia, just finished checking in and buying an arm-full of raffle tickets. At the check-in table, founding association members Melvin Allison, Etowah, North Carolina, and niece Annette Phillips, Horse Shoe, North Carolina.

Photo by Delores Shultz



Standing: Suzanne Blalock Pace, Lawrenceville, Georgia; Albert Tate, Atlanta, Georgia; Jim Tate, St. Leonard, Maryland; Sue K. Blalock, Cleveland, Georgia; seated: Roscoe Tate, Jekyll Island, Georgia.

Photo by Marion Webb



Roxanna Bradley and mom June Kirk, Cottonwood, California. *Photos above and right courtesy The Transylvania Times*

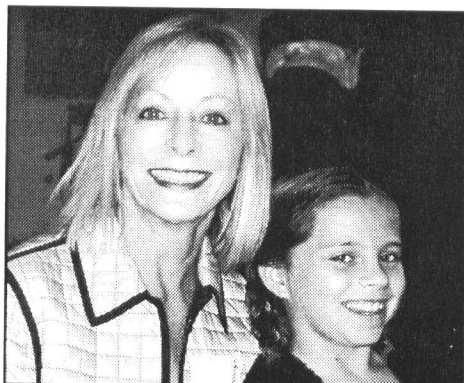


Klonie Kunzel, San Diego, California, Lois Allison Holland and daughter-in-law Donnie Holland, Albertville, Alabama

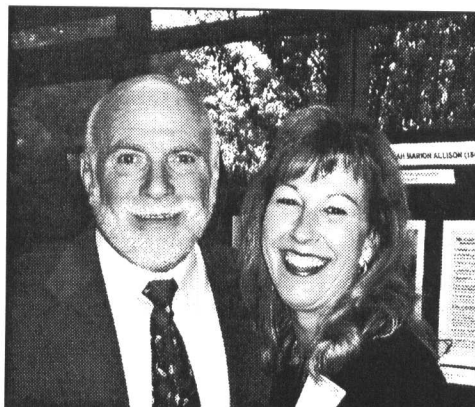


Beulah Allison Ball, Horse Shoe, North Carolina. .

Photo by Ann Kent



Dee Ray and daughter Krista, Hilton Head, South Carolina. *Photos above and right by Ann Kent*



Bill and Mary King, State Road, North Carolina.



Sisters Faye Allison McCall and Sheila Allison Owenby, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. *Photo by Jack Rudisail.*



Ralph Allison and daughter Elaine Allison McCall, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina.

Photo by Ann Kent

Ann King Kent, Hot Springs, North Carolina with granddaughter Sophia LaVergne, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Photo by Diane Guest



Ben and Maxine Israel, Flat Rock, North Carolina, Vernon and Barbara Israel, Hendersonville, North Carolina; Camille Brown, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Photo by Delores Shultz



Left: Mildred Allison George and daughter Susan Morris, Waterloo, South Carolina; Arthur Allison, Charleston, South Carolina. Right: Doyle and Margie Allison, Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Photo by Dottie Allison

Extensive family history displays were a center of attention at reunion

A very special thanks to those who assembled and presented the beautiful family history displays that were such an integral part of the reunion.

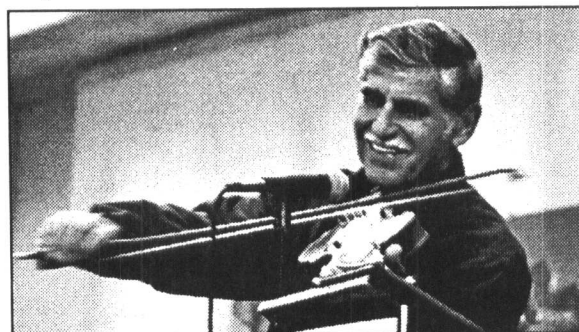
Our thanks **Thomas L. Allison**, Gastonia, North Carolina; **Delores Shultz**, Gadsden, Alabama; **Tom**

Allison, Riverdale, Georgia; **George Allison**, Chester, West Virginia; **Lynnette Bailey**, Mansfield, Texas; **Becky Howell**, Honea Path, South Carolina; **Dottie Allison**, Travelers Rest, South Carolina; **Michael Allison**, Sterrett, Alabama



Samantha Dickson, Rural Hall, North Carolina Photos above by Tom Allison Lanier & Bonnie Goard, Maryville, Tennessee

Music and dancing got the morning off to a lively start



"Fiddlin' Roy" Chapman and True Blue Grass Band kicked off the morning fun with great mountain style bluegrass music born of our ancient British Isle musical traditions. Photo at left by Thomas L. Allison. Photo above by Joe Allison



Dancing cousins do old-time clogging. Janice Jones, Cherokee, North Carolina; Renee Lewis, Cleveland, Georgia, Ollie Mae Howell, Brevard; Linda Peebles, Brevard, Faye Allison McCall, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina.

Photo by Ann Kent



Roy Chapman and True Blue Grass Band played a great variety of heritage music deeply rooted in our British Isle past, including beautiful old waltz tunes. Janice Bates, wife of Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates, and Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama danced the old-style waltz to the sweet old melodies.

Photo by Sid Propst

Almost 400 gather for reunion program at 10:00 a.m.



Partial views of the huge crowd of cousins that gathered.

Photo above by Joe Cwik. Photo below by Diane Guest



Chief Leon Jones, Cherokee, North Carolina, former Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, opened the reunion with a warm welcome to North Carolina. In reference to his marriage to Janice Allison Jones, a member of one of the Cherokee Indian branches of the Allison family, Leon proudly proclaimed, "I wasn't born an Allison, but I became one as quick as I could."

Photo by Diane Guest



A cherished family reunion tradition is to formerly open the reunion with honors to our two homes, Great Britain and the United States. Here adopted Allison cousin Jacolyn Campbell, Brevard College, leads the family in singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Save the Queen", the anthems of our ancient home and our contemporary home.

Photo by Diane Guest



US Representative Charles Taylor, North Carolina also offered a warm welcome to the crowd, and honored the Allison family's American pioneering role.

Photo courtesy The Transylvania Times



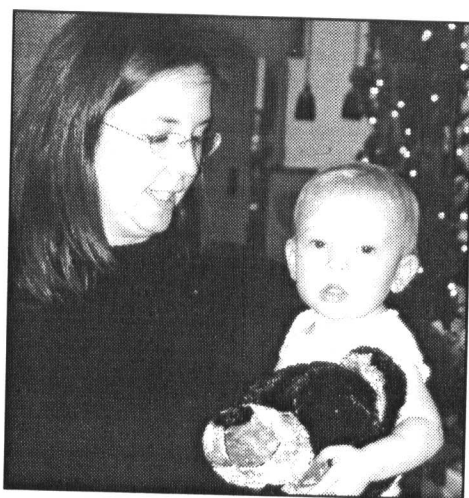
Founding member Mary Lewis, Shallotte, North Carolina (left) was presented with a beautiful bouquet and a certificate of appreciation marking the end of 7 years of dedicated, selfless service on the board of directors. Mary now serves on the auxiliary board, still working hard for the family.

Founding member Sue Blalock, Cleveland, Georgia, 90, (right) was presented with a bouquet and certificate of appreciation for her decades of dedicated work on Allison family history and her assisting role in founding the National Allison-Allanson Family Association. Sue was a leader of the White County Allisons, the first member to attend a Brevard reunion, leading to that family line being reunited with the greater family.

Photos by Ann Kent



Mom Renee Lewis, Cleveland, Georgia with son Daniel Noah Lewis, 7 months, presented with a teddy bear for the youngest baby boy present. *Photo courtesy The Transylvania Times.*



Mom Melissa Kent LaVergne, Charlotte, North Carolina with Sophia LaVergne, 15 months, youngest baby girl present with the teddy bear she was presented.

Photo by Joe Cwik



Beulah Allison Morgan, Hendersonville, North Carolina, 92, oldest lady present at the reunion. Beulah was presented with a beautiful yellow rose corsage. *Photo courtesy The Transylvania Times.*

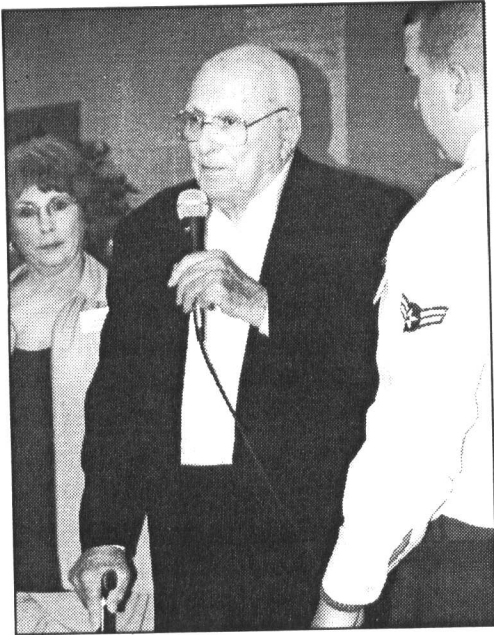


Vice president Dottie Allison, Travelers Rest, South Carolina pins a boutonniere on Nathaniel Hall, 88, Brevard, who won the award for the oldest gentleman present.



Association president Michael Allison presented Ben Allison, Los Angeles, California, with a certificate of appreciation and Allison' Honey in thanks for the reunion film screening.

Photos by Diane Guest



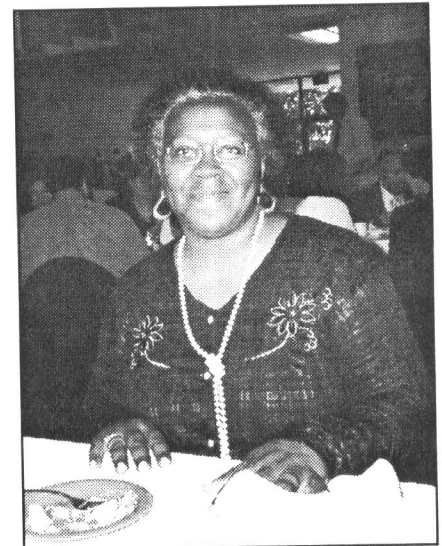
The delicious, beautifully presented reunion luncheon banquet was waiting at midday. In spite of the huge crowd, the efficient caterers had everyone served in just over thirty minutes.
Photos above and left by Jack Rudisail

Rev. William King, Charlotte, North Carolina offered the luncheon blessing, as he has for many years. Due to major spinal surgery earlier that week, he was assisted by daughter Ann Kent and Courtney Guest, Tucker, Georgia



Enjoying lunch together, from left: Peggy McNair, Maple Hill Kansas; Vonnie Jo Aton, Binghamton, New York; Monique Allison and Pete Allison, Virginia Beach, Virginia; Rex Toole, New Orleans, Louisiana; Leonard Harrington, New Orleans, Louisiana; Peggy Duman and Charlie Duman, Flagler Beach, Florida; Angela Harrington, Six Mile, South Carolina.

Photo by Delores Shultz



Barbara Smith Conley, Brevard, North Carolina enjoying lunch.

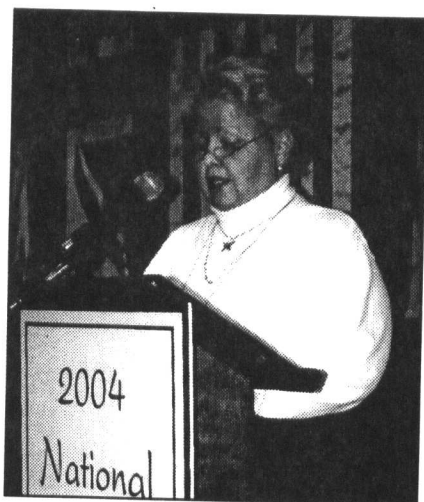
Photo by Jack Rudisail

Reunion memorial service — “Remember...lest we forget”



Eddie Bushyhead, Cherokee Indian Reservation, opened the memorial service with hauntingly beautiful songs performed on the ancient Cherokee river cane flute. He performed a most traditional melody that has been adapted and translated to English as “Guide me, Jehovah”, a song that was sung by the Cherokee on the infamous Trail of Tears in which Eddie’s great-great-grandfather Rev. Jesse Bushyhead lead a group of the mountain Cherokee on the forced march to Oklahoma. Ignorant Christian missionaries shamefully attempted to destroy the Cherokee culture, deeming all forms of their music and dance as pagan, and in the process almost wiped out this instrument and the ancient melodies performed on it. The Cherokee lost much of their culture due to these missionaries, but fortunately not all.

Photo by Diane Guest



Diane Guest, Tucker, Georgia, read the 2004 memorial rolls from the reunion floral fund.

Photos above and right by Joe Cwik



Monica Deaver-Noland, Clyde, North Carolina with Roy Chapman and True Blue Grass performed a beautiful rendition of the old "Wayfaring Stranger" to open the memorial service.



Chief Leon Jones, former Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, was honored as the presenter of the 2004 memorial wreath in the ceremony. Fiddler Roy Chapman performed a truly beautiful version of "Amazing Grace", a cherished reunion tradition, as the wreath was placed at the stage.



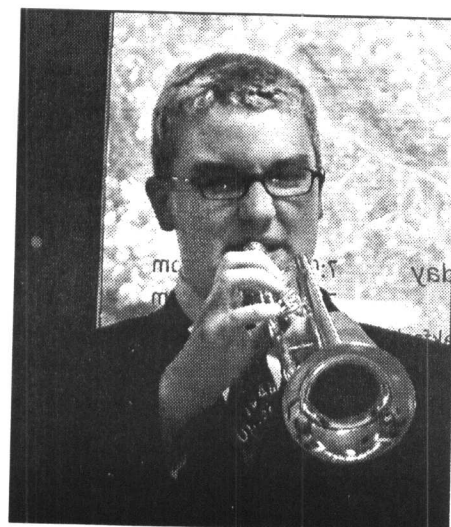
Photo above left by Diane Guest. Photo above by Joe Allison



Monica Deaver-Noland and True Blue Grass Band lead the family in singing "I'll fly Away."

Trumpeters Derek Allison (pictured) and father George Allison, Chester West Virginia, closed the reunion memorial service with a beautiful echo rendition of "Taps"

Photos left and right by Diane Guest



Saturday evening's "An old time autumn gathering"

A crowd of 340 gathered on Saturday evening of reunion weekend for "An old-time autumn gathering" — an event that proved true to its name.

While the reunion program with luncheon banquet earlier that day is structured and more formal, the goal for Saturday evening was simply to have fun together and get to know one another a little better — eating, socializing, listening to good music, singing, and dancing in a very casual atmosphere. The goal was accomplished on all levels!

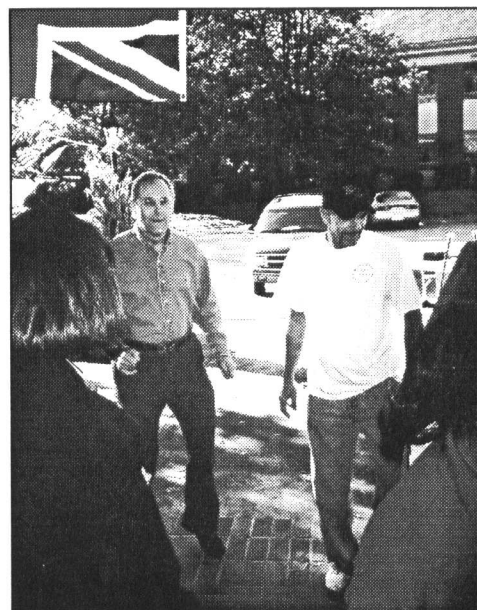
The evening entertainment was all "hands on" participatory fun, allowing everyone in the family to get involved somehow for those who wanted to do more than just watch the fun.

Pre-event clogging lessons were offered by Southern Mountain fire Cloggers at 4:00 p.m. to allow more of the family to personally experience a dance that had its birth in the north of England, then traveled to wild America in colonial times where it blended with other folk cultures into the form we know today.

A brief exposure to another English folk element was offered after dinner through a taste of shape note singing. The unusual *a capella* singing tradition was born of ancient English psalm singing.

And of course the entire weekend was loaded with wonderful heritage music that also had it's origins in our British Isle homeland. Like the Allison family, mountain style bluegrass is but an American child of British Isle parents.

Photo above by Jack Rudisail

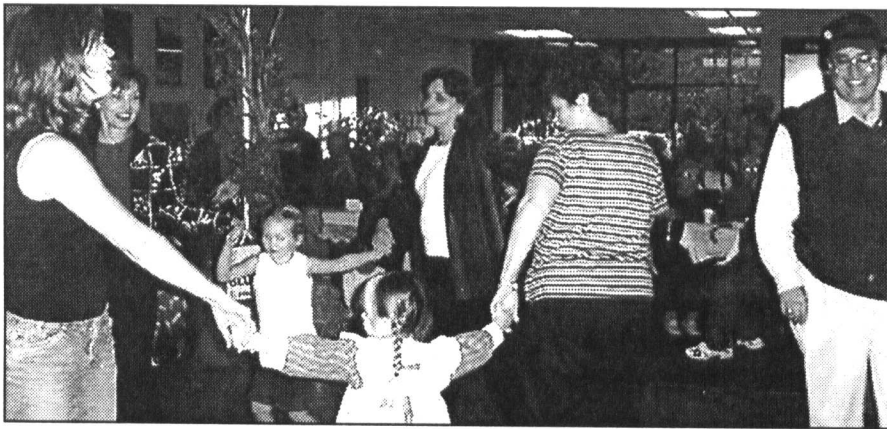


Her Majesty's Consul General Michael Bates (left) wasn't about to miss the chance to experience every moment of the fun, including clogging lessons. Mike is pictured here clogging under the Union Jack, with instructor Steve Tallent of Southern Mountain Fire Cloggers.

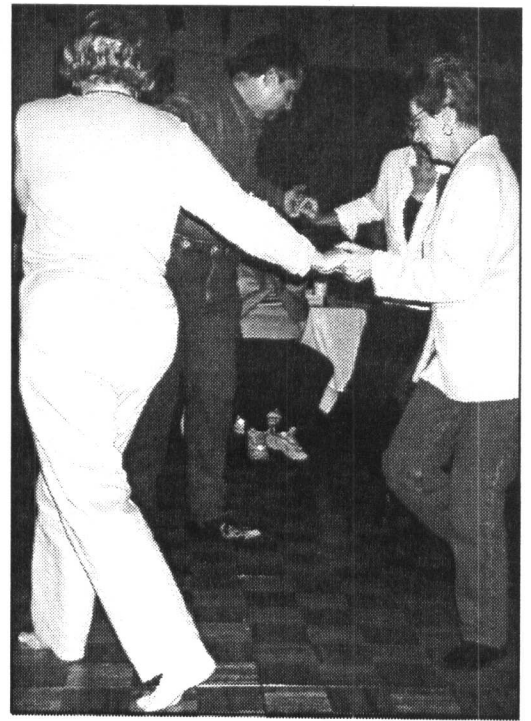


The music of our heritage under the flags of our heritage that unite us — the flags of Great Britain, the United States, and Maryland. Benny Allison's Blue Creek Bluegrass Band from White County, Georgia was first to take the colorful, beautifully decorated Saturday evening reunion stage. Benny Allison of Cleveland, Georgia (above) on guitar, and his band offered up great old-time picking and fiddling that set the mood for the entire evening.

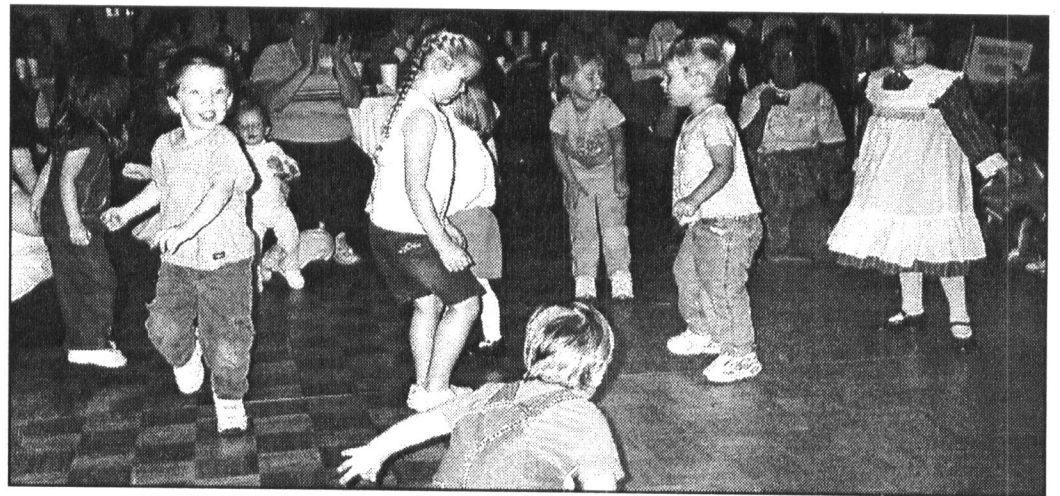
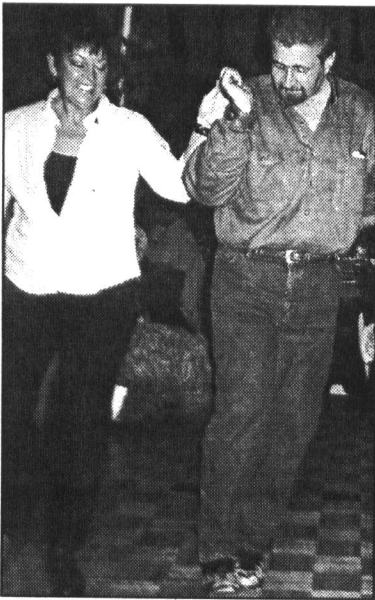
Photos by Thomas L. Allison



Clogging cousins, left Amy Miller, Denver, Colorado; Gayle Hoverson, Hendersonville, North Carolina. Right: Elaine Allison McCall, Faye Allison McCall, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina. Two little girls not identified. At far right, Larry Allison, Weaverville, North Carolina. *Photo by Delores Shultz*



More clogging cousins, left Barbara Westmoreland, Helen, Georgia and Michael Allison, Sterrett, Alabama; right Janice Allison Jones, Cherokee, North Carolina and Jere Lynn Whitfield, Cleveland, Georgia (not visible). *Photo by Jack Rudisail*



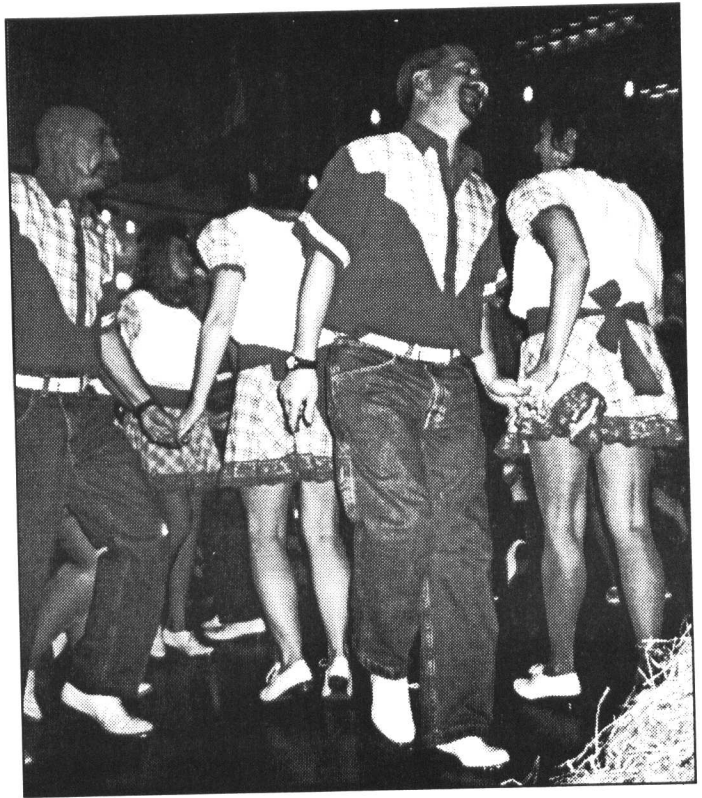
Little clogging cousins filled the dance floor with high energy. *Photo by Delores Shultz*
Dancing the old Texas two-step. Cousins Jere Lynn Whitfield, Cleveland, Georgia and Michael Allison. *Photo by Jack Rudisail*



Steep Canyon Rangers took the stage for the last half of the evening, delighting the crowd. The Rangers were joined by Southern Mountain Fire Cloggers during their last set for the grand finale. *Photos by Joe Allison*



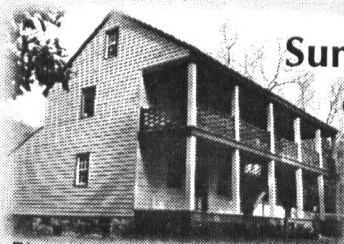
Southern Mountain Fire Cloggers opened their third reunion show with the elegant old English smooth dance to the sounds of Steep Canyon Rangers silk-smooth instrumentals. After a quick costume change, the high energy dancers returned to the dance floor in traditional tap shoes for old-time floor-pounding clogging. Steep Canyon Rangers then turned up both the pace and the volume with fiddle-driven, barn burning bluegrass that led the dancers in a lightning fast performance that had the audience cheering. To close the evening, a dance floor full of cousins joined Steep Canyon Rangers and Southern Mountain Fire. *Photo above by Jack Rudisail. Above right by Sid Propst. Below by Joe Allison.*



Thanks to our photographers!

Sincere thanks to everyone who preserved and donated images of the 2004 National Allison Family Reunion, to enjoy now and for posterity. Our photographers: Diane Guest, Ann Kent; Bill & Virginia Allison; Barry Allison, Doyle Chambers; Marion Webb, L. Tom Allison, Jr., Joe Allison, Delores Shultz, Lynette Bailey, Billy Moore, Roy Melton, Sid & Ann Propst, Jack Rudisail, Transylvania Times, Thomas L. Allison, Joe Cwik, Dottie Allison, Janice Bates.





Sunday afternoon at the historic ca. 1816 Allison-Deaver House

The past meets the present at the oldest
surviving Allison family home in America

Photo by Michael Allison



Photo by Roy Melton



Vera Jones Stinson and moonshiner
Popcorn Sutton. Photo by Diane Guest



Traditional mountain music from
the porch. Photo by Ann Propst



Elizabeth Rahn clogs.
Photo by Ann Kent



Selena Hall Robinson.
Photo by Diane Guest



Photos above and above right by Roy Melton



Julie Melton, Smyrna, Georgia at window of house. Benjamin
Allison's circa 1813 barn is pictured below.



Front row, from left: Ramona Brooks, Gadsden, Alabama; Barbara Moore, Glencoe, Alabama; Debbie Browning and daughter Jordan Ledford, Clyde North Carolina; Delores Shultz, Gadsden, Alabama. Middle row: Virginia McKinney, Dallas, Texas; Frances Parton Eiland, Gadsden, Alabama; Carol Moore, Hokes Bluff, Alabama; Becky Howell, Honea Path, South Carolina; Debrada Browning; Simpsonville, South Carolina with niece Jessica Ledford; Nira McCullough, Mansfield, Texas; Lynnette Bailey, Mansfield, Texas; Back row: Billy Moore, Gadsden, Alabama; Joe Moore, Hokes Bluff, Alabama; George Shultz, Gadsden, Alabama.

Photo by Larry Allison